

# Reflecting on the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands

Canadians and the Dutch will pause May 5 to remember the 65th anniversary of the Canadian led liberation of the Netherlands.

The Second World War influenced the lives of countless millions of people, including those who left home to fight in uniform and those who endured great suffering when the fighting took place in their homeland.

By mid-1940, much of Western Europe, including the Netherlands, was under Nazi German control. Under Nazi German control, the

people of the Netherlands experienced extreme oppression. By 1945, the official daily ration per person in the Netherlands was only 320 calories. Thousands of Dutch men, women, and children perished due to starvation. Dutch Jews were subjected to inhumane treatment under Nazi rule; forced from their homes into ghettos, expelled from public schools, sent to forced labour camps and eventually deported to Nazi run concentration camps in Poland and Germany for extermination.

*Ottawa Journal*

**David Tilson**  
MP Dufferin-  
Caledon



Following a failed attempt by allied troops to take the Netherlands by air strike in 1944, the First Canadian Army joined allied forces in a fierce push through mud and flooded ground, to drive the Germans eastward out of

the Netherlands and back across the Rhine.

The First Canadian Army, with more than 200,000 soldiers and tens of thousands of allied troops from other countries under its command, spent the spring of 1945 rapidly moving across the Netherlands, recapturing canals and farmland, as they secured the northeastern part of the country. In the west, Canadian and British troops cleared the major cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Additionally, Canadian and allied troops cleared the city of Arnhem in just two days, fighting a house-by-house

battle.

The hard work, courage, and great sacrifices of Canadian and other Allied soldiers led to the surrender of all German troops in the Netherlands May 5, 1945. German forces in the rest of Europe would surrender days later, bringing an end to the Second World War.

For the role played by Canada in the liberation of the Netherlands, the Dutch people are eternally thankful. Canadian-Dutch relations have remained strong since Canadian soldiers returned the Netherlands to its people in 1945. During the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, the Dutch royal family found refuge in Canada. In 1943, when Dutch princess Margriet was born, the Canadian government temporarily declared the maternity ward of the Ottawa Civic Hospital to be extraterritorial, allowing the

princess to be born a Dutch citizen.

Following the war, the Dutch people sent many gifts to Canada as a gesture of gratitude for the role Canadian soldiers played in liberating their country. One of these gifts was 100,000 tulip bulbs. Today, these tulips bloom every spring in Ottawa, serving as a reminder of the bond our two countries share. To this day, the Dutch government sends 10,000 tulip bulbs to Canada annually as an ongoing gesture of appreciation.

Canadians are proud of the role we played in ending the Second World War and liberating the people of the Netherlands, who had experienced treachery under Nazi rule. We are also proud of the long lasting bond of friendship we share with the Dutch people, which resulted from our shared experience in Second World War.



## Performers offer 'Payback' for Earth Day

A group of performers gathered at Christ Church in Bolton last Thursday to mark Earth Day. Proceeds from the event went to support the work of the Caledon Green T Environmental Awareness (TEA) group. The highlight of the celebration was readings from Margaret Atwood's *Payback*, which included the final chapter, which is an updated version of the Christmas Carol story. Shelley Peterson of Caledon and David Nairn, artistic director of Theatre Orangeville, were taking some of the parts in the story. Laura Bird offered some of the music. Bolton native and CBC News reporter David Seglins was another one of the readers.

Photos by Bill Rea



## Art in the Garden 2010, call for artists

Art in the Garden 2010 at Plant Paradise Country Gardens is inviting artists from the Caledon and surrounding areas to apply to this unique garden art show and sale.

Art in the Garden 2010

will be held June 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Only 12 select artists will be chosen to participate. Interested artists may request an application entry form and more information by contacting

Lorraine Roberts, of Plant Paradise Country Gardens, 16258 Humber Station Rd., Caledon, ON L7E 0Y9, (905) 880-9090, [www.plantparadise.ca](http://www.plantparadise.ca)

The deadline is April 29.

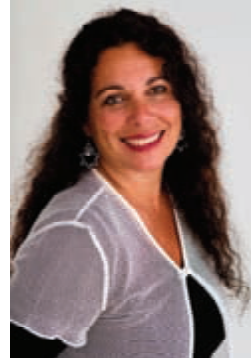


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## "Full of Beans" By Jo-Anna Lenz



I recently attended a party for organic food growers and had an interesting conversation about, of all things, beans!

"Have you ever been to a food bank?" I was asked. "Oh yes, I work at one."

"What kind of food

do you give out?" "Well, we are a little different than most food banks. We distribute food certificates to local grocery stores; this provides people with the opportunity to buy fresh food. We also supplement by distributing packed boxes of non-perishable food."

"So what's in the food boxes?" "Basically, whatever is donated. We try to add a mix of pasta, beans, veggies, rice, fruit, cereal, peanut butter, etc. No two boxes are the same because we don't have a regular supply. We get a lot of beans but very few people like to eat them".

"That's interesting, I wonder why?" "Good question, maybe it's because they didn't grow up eating them or because they don't know how to cook or prepare them." "Did you know that beans have been found in pre-Columbian tombs and the Egyptian pyramids? It's been said that the Egyptians had temples dedicated to beans, worshipping them as a symbol of life and that most historians agree that beans are probably native to ancient Peru."

"Really? I did know that beans are eaten in many Latin cultures. I use beans a lot in soups, stews, chilis and salads. I've even heard of a recipe for bean pancakes. And the best thing is that they are cheap to buy

and a great alternative to meat because of their high content of protein, fiber and vitamins".

"Yes and the Native Americans have long planted a staple of beans, corn and squash which they call the 'three sisters.'"

The discussion continued, and left me feeling hungry.

Food is very powerful isn't it? It is one of our most basic needs, coming before safety, love and esteem.

We live in such a wealthy country where excess is the norm, not the exception. And yet people still need to go to food banks. Last year in Ontario alone, 374,230 people were assisted by food banks. Caledon is not excluded from this grim phenomenon. Many of the people served by the Caledon Food bank, which is operated by Caledon Community Services, are employed; many have a disability income; many rely on social assistance. In all cases, they do not make enough money to purchase sufficient food to feed themselves and their families; and securing healthy food in particular is a real challenge.

We often take our daily meals for granted. But imagine, if you will, the experience of choosing between a warm house or food for your children. That choice doesn't sit well with those of us at Caledon Community Services, nor with thousands of our supporters in this community. If it doesn't sit well with you either, please add a little more to your grocery budget this month to help us supply food for others.

Your donations help us purchase food cards to our community's grocery stores and that amounts to a lot more than a hill of beans. And of course, we would welcome your bean recipes too!

### How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.

You can reach Jo-Anna Lenz, Manager of Community Services at 905.584.2300 ext 201 or [jlenc@ccs4u.org](mailto:jlenc@ccs4u.org)

*This column is provided free of charge by the Caledon Citizen.*