

Press Release

Toronto, March 29, 2010

**‘THANK YOU LIBERATORS’
WWII CONFERENCE IN TORONTO**

On Saturday May 8, to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland by the Canadian and Allied Forces, the Denison Armoury in Downsview is hosting a **‘THANK YOU LIBERATORS’** WWII Conference, organized by the Dutch Canadian Association of Greater Toronto. The objective of the Conference is to honour some 250 war veterans who participated in the Liberation of Holland, as well as members of the Dutch-Canadian community who experienced the Liberation.

“We are most pleased to host this Conference, which is not only an opportunity for WWII veterans to share their experiences during the Liberation of Holland but also with members of the Dutch Canadian community, who were there in 1944/45!” said Major James DeBruin, Commanding Officer of the Denison Armoury, himself of Dutch descent.

The war veterans and their guests will be treated to a varied program. A special ‘65th Anniversary Youth Choir’, with 120 grade 3 to 6 students from the Rehoboth Christian School in Copetown, has been assembled to sing WWII songs, including an adaptation of Vera Lynn’s ‘I’ll be seeing you...’ written especially for this occasion. Also world-renowned violinist Moshe Hammer, accompanied by pianist Robert Kortgaard, is on the program. Film footage of the Liberation of Holland will be shown and in the afternoon there will be a more humorous presentation on how the Dutch perceived the Canadian military following the liberation in 1945. A buffet lunch will be served around noon and the Conference will conclude with a reception for the veterans, hosted by the Consul General of The Netherlands. All participants will receive the ‘Keep The Flame Alive’ commemorative conference pin and the Veterans will receive a gift package with typical Dutch delicacies and goods.

“Thanks to a number of generous sponsors, the cooperation of Major DeBruin and his staff, as well as the Consulate General and the hard work of a volunteer committee, are we able to honour these war veterans on May 8,” said Martin van Denzen, President of the Dutch Canadian Association of Greater Toronto. “When the Canadians and Allied Forces entered The Netherlands in 1944/45, there were ‘Welcome to the Liberators’ banners everywhere, that’s why we called the Conference **‘THANK YOU LIBERATORS’**, and we will have such a large banner, when these war veterans march into the Parade Hall, where the Conference will take place!”

For further information please contact:

Dutch Canadian Association of Greater Toronto

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Denison Armoury

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Toronto, Ontario
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These 250 war veterans and their guests will be honoured with a varied program. A special ‘65th Anniversary Youth Choir’, with 120 grade 3 to 6 students from the Rehoboth Christian School in Copetown, has been created to sing WWII songs, including an adaptation of Vera Lynn’s ‘I’ll be seeing you...’ especially written for this occasion. Also world-renowned violinist Moshe Hammer, accompanied by pianist Robert Kortgaard, is on the program. A number of war veterans and Dutch-Canadians are to share their experiences with the expected 1,100 conference participants. Film footage of the Liberation of Holland will be shown, and in the afternoon there will be a more humorous presentation on how the Dutch perceived the Canadian military following the Liberation in 1945. A buffet lunch will be served around noon and the Conference will conclude with a reception for the veterans hosted by the Consul General of The Netherlands. All veterans will receive the commemorative ‘Keep The Flame Alive’ Conference Pin as well as some other special gifts.

We are inviting Canadian and Allied Veterans who participated in the Liberation of Holland to come to this event on May the 8th from 10 AM to 5 PM. If you wish to attend please send in your name, address and regiment number, as well as the Dutch city or town you remember best, to the above address and include a self addressed stamped envelope, in order that we may send you a confirmation and directions to the Denison Armoury. Please include the name of your guest, who may accompany you. Attendance is limited, therefore we look forward receiving your letter as soon as possible. For any further information do not hesitate to call the Association at 416-229-1753.