



News Release
Thursday, November 5, 2009

National Student Tour to Remember 65th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Makes a Stop in Durham

Day of events highlights Canadian war veterans, the enduring connection between Canada and the Netherlands and upcoming students' tour

On Monday, November 9, 2009, more than 300 students and staff from 20 schools and three school boards will participate in a walk-a-thon to raise awareness of and funds for their upcoming National Student Tour to Remember 65th Anniversary of Victory in Europe.

The walk-a-thon is just one part of a day of events that will highlight the memory of Blackstock veteran Roy E. Carter, and the upcoming May 2010 tour when thousands of Canadian students and teachers will come together in the Netherlands to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of Victory in Europe and Canada's liberation of the Netherlands.

The tours, led by retired Port Perry history teacher Dave Robinson, are part of an ongoing series to connect today's students in meaningful ways with Canadians' roles in significant historical battles. More information about the Tour can be found at www.victoryineuropetour.ca.

Media are invited to attend the day's events. Please find a complete agenda below, which will include Ambassador of the Netherlands Wim Geerts, veterans, local dignitaries, educators and students. Interviews with participants are possible.

Dedication of Roy E. Carter Park 16 Crestview Avenue, Blackstock, ON

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Park Dedication in the name of Scugog resident and WW II Veteran Flying Officer Roy E. Carter.

F/O Carter, his protector, Jacoba Pulskens of Tilburg, Netherlands; and fellow airmen Jack Stewart Nott of Australia and Ronny Walker of England are being recognized. These airmen were executed by the Gestapo and Jacoba Pulskens died in the gas chambers of Ravensbruck Concentration Camp.

- Representatives of the Carter family will be participating
- Ambassador of the Netherlands Wim Geerts will be participating in the event, including the plaque unveiling with local Member of Parliament Hon. Bev Oda, Member of Provincial Parliament John O'Toole, Mayor Marilyn Pearce and other dignitaries
- Message from Australian High Commission will be read
- Students from Cartwright Central Public School and Cartwright High School are participating

Ambassador of the Netherlands Visits Victory Garden and Walk-a-Thon Kick-Off

**Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School, 700 Stevenson Road North. Oshawa ON
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

- Ambassador of the Netherlands Wim Geerts will meet with students at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School, 700 Stevenson Road North., Oshawa, and visit the Victory Garden planted with tulips donated by the Dutch government in honour of the students' visit to the Netherlands next year
- Walk-a-thon kick off for Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School students and R S. McLaughlin CVI students

Victory in Europe Walk-a-Thon

Noon – 1:30 PM

- Three hundred students will depart from one of three sites: Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School and R.S. McLaughlin CVI; Anderson CVI and All Saints Catholic High School. A bagpiper will lead each group.
- Twenty schools participating (outlined below)
- Arrive at the Durham District School Board Education Centre (400 Taunton Road East, Whitby) where there will be Veterans' displays, G-Wagon display, music and a reception

The walk-a-thon culmination event will include:

- Town Crier Fred Martin will call the formal ceremonies to order at 1:50 pm
- Ambassador of the Netherlands Wim Geerts
- Liaison Officer – Canada /Netherlands Jan Koorenhof
- Mayor Whitby Pat Perkins
- Mayor Oshawa John Gray
- MPP Whitby Christine Elliott
- MPP Ajax-Pickering Joe Dickson
- MP Oshawa Colin Carrie
- MP Ajax-Pickering Mark Holland
- Guest Author and Historian Mark Zuehlke
- Director of Education, Durham District School Board Martyn Beckett
- Director of Education, Durham Catholic District School Board Paul Pulla
- Superintendent of Student Achievement, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Catherine Foy
- EF Educational Tours President Erik Church
- National VE Tour Coordinator Dave Robinson
- Following presentations, a group photo will be taken at 2:15 pm

Lecture with Author, Mark Zuehlke, “Liberation of Holland.”

*****FREE ADMISSION*****

**Father Leo J. Austin CSS, 1020 Dryden Blvd, Whitby
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Also on November 9, 2009, tour organizers will host author Mark Zuehlke who will provide a lecture entitled, “Liberation of Holland.” Zuehlke is a best-selling military historian who will discuss the First Canadian Army's campaign to liberate the Netherlands in the closing months of World War II and how, even today, the Dutch remembrance of the sacrifice made by Canadians for their freedom remains strong.

The lecture is free to the public and will be held at Father Leo J. Austin CSS, 1020 Dryden Blvd, Whitby from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information about Zuehlke and his books please visit www.zuehlke.ca.

Participating Board and Schools:

Durham District School Board Schools:

R.S. McLaughlin Collegiate Vocational Institute; O'Neill Collegiate Vocational Institute; Eastdale Collegiate Vocational Institute; Maxwell Heights Secondary School; Anderson Collegiate Vocational Institute; Sinclair Secondary School; Uxbridge Secondary School; Pickering High School; Port Perry High School; Henry St High School; J Clarke Richardson Collegiate; Brock High School; Donald A Wilson Secondary School

Durham Catholic District School Board Schools:

Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School; Father Leo Austin Catholic High School; All Saints Catholic High School

Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board Schools:

East Northumberland Secondary School; Courtice Secondary School; Clarington Central Secondary School; Clarke High School

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