

From the desk of Frank Stolk

Dear membership:

I hope you are all feeling a little better with the rollout of the vaccination program in full swing and we all hope we can soon start gathering once more at our beloved DCC and pick up where we all left off.



On May 4th the Board members and Jerry Bouma held a small remembrance ceremony at the DCC Cenotaph, but we had to keep the attendance down due to Covid-19. We all felt the need to continue this annual ceremony. Both Jerry and myself touched on the fact that too often we hear: "I have my civil rights taken away from me, nobody can force me to wear a mask, or no one can force me to get a vaccine". These poorly informed individuals don't have the faintest idea what it is to go through a war, and your rights have been completely taken away and isolation means if you are caught outside it could be the end of you. We must keep sticking to the health directions, we should know better.

On May 5th we started out at the Kipnes Centre for veterans at 10:30 AM, with a last-minute change of rules but we managed to honor the 21 Veterans one by one while social distancing. Rinske and Jenny made up a Dutch display table and we ordered \$1,000.00 of potted flowers and baskets for their centre to be planted by their volunteers later this month when the risk of frost and snow has passed. The Veterans came out one by one and were saluted in dress uniform by Ralph Young, Hon. Colonel of the Southern Alberta Light Horse Regiment. Jerry Bouma, representing the Government of the Netherlands, handed out 2 letters for each Veteran, one from Consul General Henk Snoeken from Vancouver on behalf of King Willem Alexander and one letter written by school students from Wageningen, We took our Draaiorgel 't Hummeltje from it's stall and Hans and Roel were playing some fine Dutch tunes in the background to give it a Dutch atmosphere. Nick Lees of the Edmonton Journal was on site to get a few personal experiences from some of the Vets.

At 1:30, after stopping at a McDonald's for a quick bite, we traveled to the Emmanuel Home. We dropped off a beautiful basket of flowers for their main lobby, and the staff had put up a few colorful posters to inform their residents that we would be playing 't Hummeltje in front of the main entrance. It was so much fun. As soon as the first notes were cranked out the windows opened up and people were dancing in their rooms and a few dozen residents came outside with walkers, wheel chairs or with canes, they twirled around clapping hands and singing along. It was nice to see a few of our DCC members too. After 2 hours cranking we had to say goodbye, we had one more stop to make.

We were scheduled to be at George and Elizabeth Dettling's house at 3:00 pm to drop off another flower basket. But then I received a text message from their daughter Diane that her mom just had fallen and had been picked up by an ambulance. Poor George was so distraught and kept saying I hope she didn't break anything, so we left the flower basket and wished them both all the best. The next afternoon Elizabeth had hip surgery to repair her broken hip. The Dettlings were married in December 1945 in Holland, the rest of their remarkable journey you can read on page 14-15 where we have reprinted a copy of the Nick Lees' article that was published in the Edmonton Journal.

Stay safe and healthy and hopefully we see each other again soon.

EDITORIAL

by Jenny Smits
780-473-0905 - dutchtouchemonton@gmail.com

As you can see: Spring/Summer has arrived at the Dutch Canadian Centre. The spring clean-up at the grounds made a big difference and Rinske with her green thumb is busy looking after the flower beds and planters. I hope we will be able to enjoy some of her hard work this summer, even if we can only visit on the patio. I'm hoping for a better summer this year!

Our next Dutch Touch will be sent out in August/September so I hope you all have a great summer.



Welcome to our new members!
Our membership dues are per calendar year (January-December) at the following rates:
Family \$70.00 Senior Family \$60.00 Single \$35.00 Senior Single \$30.00 Student \$25.00

Please mail your membership application or renewal with your **name, address, phone number and e-mail address** to:
Dutch Canadian Club
13312—142 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5L4T3
Or remit via e-transfer or interac transfer to dcedm@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

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Congratulations to

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to

Henk Alberda

On June 13, 2021

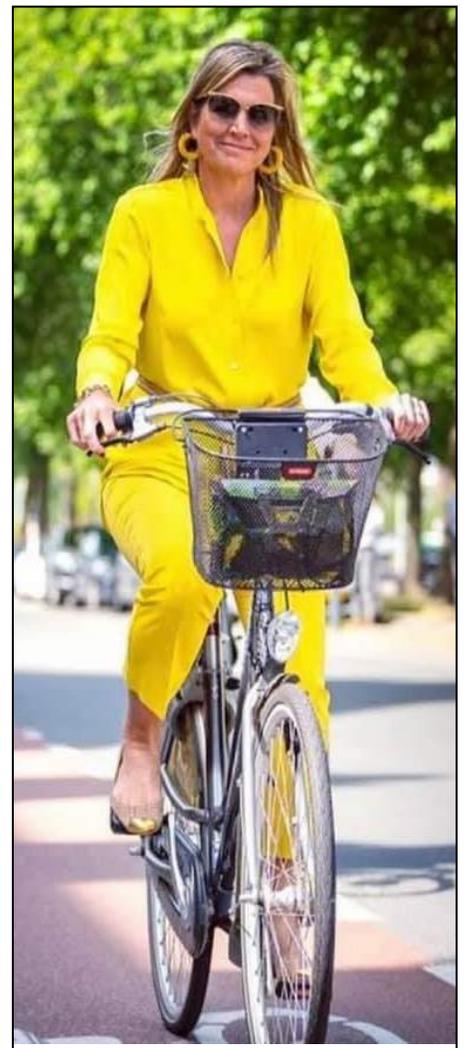
QUEEN MAXIMA TURNS 50

On May 17 Queen Maxima of the Netherlands celebrated her 50th birthday. Maxima Zorreguieta Cerruti was born on May 17, 1971 in Buenos Aires. Maxima met Willem-Alexander in April 1999 in Seville during the Seville Spring Fair. Maxima and Willem-Alexander got married on February 2, 2002 in a civil ceremony at the Beurs van Berlage, and afterwards, a religious ceremony was held at the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam. The couple has three daughters: Catharina-Amalia “Amalia” (the Princess of Orange), Alexia, and Ariane.

Queen Máxima was presented with a special birthday cake the night before her birthday in the presence of her family: King Willem-Alexander and her daughters Princess Catharina-Amalia, Princess Alexia, and Princess Ariane. Queen Máxima received a special birthday cake to mark her 50th birthday this week, presented to her by one of her long-standing patronages, More Music in the Classroom. The decadent cake, presented to the Queen during a special television presentation entitled ‘Queen Máxima: A Life Full of Music ‘for Méér Muziek in de Klas’ featured musical motifs and large and small candles to represent the large and small musical initiatives that she backs as honorary chairman of More Music in the Classroom.

The Royal Family was treated to performances by schoolchildren across the Netherlands as well as established musicians including Tania Kross, Jeroen van der Boom, Emma Heesters, Glen Faria, Roel van Velzen, Danny de Munk, Jamai, Elske DeWall and Jeugdorkest Nederland, according to More Music in the Classroom. The Dutch National Ballet also prepared a special ballet for the occasion.

More Music in the Classroom has been holding a contest since late March for music-minded individuals to show their support. “Anyone who, like Queen Máxima, wants to commit to structural music education and wants to share a good example”, has had a chance to win a birthday cake, a music workshop and a report by a kids reporter since March 29. Teachers, parents, children, as well as municipalities and cultural institutions participated and produced nearly 200 special entries,” according to the organisation’s official website.



Queen Máxima received the Grand Cross of the Order of the House of Orange for her birthday as well, and participated in a televised interview where she touched upon her life and family, calling her husband an anchor and her eldest daughter a wonderful human being.

A little bit of this and that to the Windmills

I hope all of you mothers enjoyed a happy Mothers' Day despite the further Covid-19 restrictions that were imposed just before the Mothers' Day weekend.

Things are looking up on the Covid-19 front with many more people receiving vaccinations. Anyone over the age of 12 is now eligible to receive a shot. My teenage grandchildren have had their first shot and hopefully they can all go back to school for a while until the summer break. Even though learning on-line can be very efficient (even our granddaughter in grade 1 is very handy with her chrome book), children need that social contact with other students.

We have a grandson graduating from high school but due to the pandemic restrictions no dinner, no dance. There will be a ceremony set up in a parking lot with a stage where the students can walk across one by one to receive their diplomas, with the audience sitting in their cars. He also missed out on all these once in a lifetime experiences of his final year in high school, especially missing the chance to play sports on the senior high school teams.

Our smallest grandchildren in grade 1 and playschool think it is just normal to social distance and sit in class wearing their masks all day. The classes are strictly separated and they don't see other kids outside their own class bubble at recess or at assemblies. They don't know any better at this point. We all manage in our own way, but I am sure the pandemic will also have a lasting effect on the kids.



Although we don't have a lot of tulips in bloom at the Dutch Canadian Centre (half of them were eaten by the rabbits) it does look like spring in the garden around the cenotaph. We got a big boost when a landscape crew came out in full force earlier this spring and did some much needed pruning and cleanup around the property. They had all the proper equipment to do the job and it was fun to watch how efficient they were getting the work done.

We had some warm days, but at present there is snow and frost in the forecast so I am being patient before planting the flower pots. Thank you to Pauline for getting us new flower containers to be put by the entrance to the Flying Dutchmen club room. The old wooden barrels were totally disintegrated.

For all the armchair sport enthusiasts it will be a busy spring/summer. There is something for everyone to watch:

- Even though it was a shortened season and the format is different than other years, the Oilers are in the Stanley cup playoffs. Round 1 will be against the Winnipeg Jets. Go Oilers go.
- The 2020/21 European UEFA soccer championship will be on from June 11 till July 11. Holland plays in group C against Ukraine, Austria and North Macedonia. The first game against Ukraine will be played on June 13th in the Johan Cruyff arena in Amsterdam.



- The Tour de France is being held June 26 till July 18. "I like watching it because of the scenery while they cycle through the beautiful French countryside.
- The 2020 Tokyo Olympics will tentatively go on this summer after being delayed for a year from July 23 till August 8 2021. I am always rooting for the Dutch athletes as well as the Canadians.



To the fathers among you Happy Fathers day and Happy Birthday to those celebrating a birthday this summer.



I also want to take this opportunity to wish Ria Bok and Willie Korendyk a speedy recovery. Both of them are out of commission for a while. Willie with a broken leg and Ria broke her foot. Get better soon ladies, all the best.

Don't forget to call and sign up for the bus to take us from the club to Light Horse Park for the unveiling of the Anne Frank statue on August 8th (details on page 11). We are hoping to have a small social after this event upon returning to the club. Hope to see many of you there.

Meanwhile take care.

Rinske

Home phone: 780- 960-9758 (You can leave a message)
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| 8. ChefSpecial | Afraid Of The Dark |
| 9. Jaap Reesema | Alles Komt Goed |
| 10. Emma Heesters | Schat Ik Ben Ok |



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT OPERATING GRANT

The Dutch Canadian Club has received a notice from the City of Edmonton that we have been awarded this year's \$16,500.00 Community Investment Operating Grant again. This is welcome news, and we appreciate the fact that the City recognizes clubs like ours for our community service.



May 4, 2021 - DUTCH REMEMBRANCE DAY - DODENHERDENKING

This year's remembrance ceremony was very low key again with just a few members in attendance. Frank Stolk spoke on behalf of the Dutch Canadian Club and Honorary Dutch Consul Jerry Bouma spoke on behalf of the King of the Netherlands. Wreaths were then placed at the cenotaph. Afterwards lunch was served in the clubroom.



Jerry Bouma and Aris Smits laid wreaths representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Dutch community in Edmonton



Pauline Commandeur and her team provided a delicious "COVID-time" individual lunch for everyone.

MAY 5, 2021 - LIBERATION DAY - BEVRIJDINGSDAG



Kipnes Centre

On May 5, 2021 representatives from the Dutch Canadian Club (Edmonton) together with the representative for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Jerry Bouma, honored twenty-one WWII veterans at the Kipnes Centre. All veterans received a letter on behalf of Dutch King Willem Alexander as well as a letter from an elementary school student.



Due to COVID restrictions the event happened outside with the veterans coming out one by one to receive their letters from Jerry Bouma and Frank Stolk. It was so nice to see them in their blazers and their medals. Baskets of flowers were presented to the Kipnes Centre with more flowers to be delivered at a later date to fill some of their outside planters. The weather cooperated for this event and Hans and Roel played the street organ during the presentations.



Emmanuel Home

The next stop was the Emmanuel Home where a basket of flowers was delivered and the street organ played for a while. Many of the residents were able to come outside and they truly enjoyed the organ. Some could not join us outside but could open their windows and were waving their arms to the beat of the music. We played for almost 2 hours and we received a few requests to stop by again during the summer.



Gerry & Wilma Thys; Pat & Ted Hoekstra



George & Elizabeth Dettling



Frank Stolk, George Dettling, Jerry Bouma



Jerry Bouma and Frank Stolk then visited the Dettlings. They are longtime members of the Dutch Canadian Club and George was part of the Canadian troops that liberated the Netherlands. That's where he met the love of his life, Elizabeth while at a victory celebration dance in Amsterdam in May 1945 and the war

hero and his war bride have made their home in Canada. They are now both 98 years old.

Unfortunately before the visit Elizabeth fell and was taken to hospital with a broken hip. George was presented with a letter on behalf of King Willem Alexander and a flower basket with thanks for his service from the Dutch community.



George & Elizabeth in 1945

Quite a few people showed up at their house including some family members and legion members but everyone was sad after hearing about Elizabeth's hospitalization. We wish her all the best..

Nick Lees, Edmonton Journal columnist wrote a nice article about George and Elizabeth, entitled: **Love at first sight has lasted 77 years for dancing Edmonton couple.** He tells their love story, how they met, married and throughout their lives have enjoyed their love of dancing.. The couple has seven children, 13 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren.

You can find the complete article on Page 14 and 15 and also on the Journals' website <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/nick-lees-love-at-first-sight-has-lasting-77-years-for-dancing-edmonton-couple>

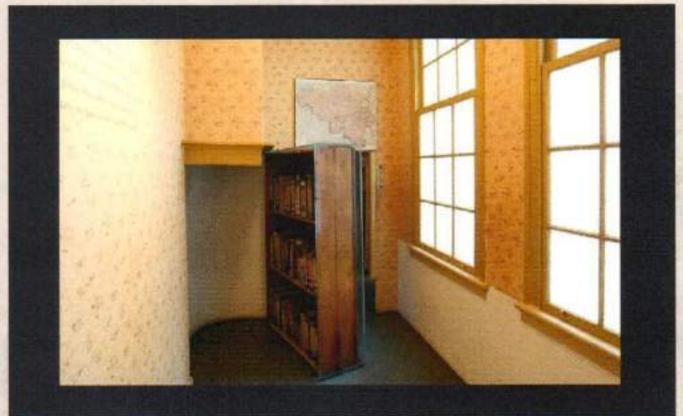
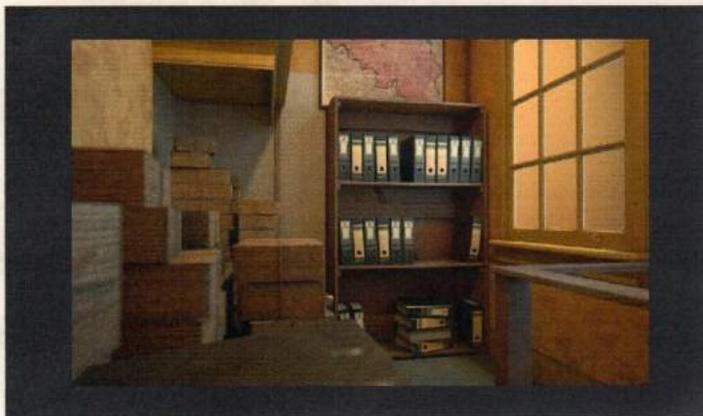
Anne Frank House Virtual Tour

Sunday, June 13th, 11am-12pm, MDT



Photo collection of the Anne Frank Stichting (Amsterdam).

Anne Frank House museum staff will take you on a guided tour of the Secret Annex, where Anne and her family went into hiding in Amsterdam



This program is designed for adults and children over 10 years old and is presented in partnership with the Dutch Canadian Club and Edmonton Public Library

To access this free program, register here:

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/annefranktour>



ANNE FRANK STATUE INSTALLATION — August 8, 2021

We are very happy to announce that on August 8th, 2021 at 1:00 PM the Anne Frank statue will be installed in the Strathcona Light Horse Park. This 75th Liberation project, spearheaded by John Stobbe and the Dutch Canadian Club was originally planned to be presented in 2020 for the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands on behalf of the Dutch community. But COVID-19 restrictions significantly delayed the progress of this project. We thank the many people who have supported us with their generous donations to make this project a reality.

We invite everyone to come and attend this ceremony. A bus will leave the Dutch Canadian Centre on August 8 at 12:00 noon for our members and guests. We will have to comply with COVID-19 regulations, which we hope will be eased somewhat at that time.

To reserve your place on the bus, please contact Rinske TerHeide at 780-960-9758 or 587-879-3632 (rterheide@shaw.ca)

Jenny Smits at 780-975-7426 (jismits45@gmail.com)

Ria Bok at 780-920-2226 (riaandbert@gmail.com)



Strathcona Light Horse Park is being prepared for the placement of the statue

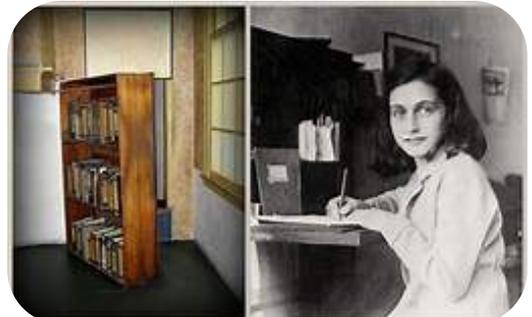


In 1942, Anne Frank, a girl of 13 received a diary as her birthday present. In this diary she wrote of how she lived through World War II at Amsterdam in Holland.

The first part of Anne Frank's diary contained events of a normal girl's life such as school, crushes, and social interactions with friends and her life and family but after some time these would change. Fear was imminent because of the German Gestapo arresting Jews for at will, so they went into hiding. Anne Frank's father Otto had thought of a perfect hiding place for his family, spaces behind his office building and they called it the Secret Annex (Het Achterhuis). After some time more people went into hiding at the Secret Annex, the Van Daans and Mr. Alfred Dussel.

The Diary of Anne Frank provides illustrations and narratives of how they lived their lives during World War II, their stories of everyday as they interact with each other, and the experiences they had to deal with during the war. The Diary was found by Miep Gies, the woman who helped hide and shelter Anne Frank and the people who resided in the Secret Annex after they were arrested and transported to several concentration camps. After the war she gave the diary to Otto Frank, the only surviving member of the residents of Prinsengracht 263, to share Anne's Diary with the rest of the world.

The book was published in 1947, just over five years after Anne's thirteenth birthday, the day she had received her diary. She had come up with the title of the book herself: Het Achterhuis (The Secret Annex). Looking back, Otto Frank wrote: 'How proud Anne would have been if she had lived to see this. After all, on 29 March 1944, she wrote: "Imagine how interesting it would be if I published a novel about the Secret Annex."



The diary has been translated into 70 languages with over 30 million copies sold.



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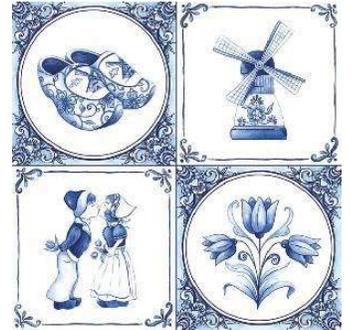
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Nordic Room
Board Room

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Club members and ESCA members

Dutch Touch articles

We would love to hear from our members if you have stories to share or items of interest to the Dutch community.



It could be travel, memories from the Netherlands, recipes, pictures etc.

Please send your submissions to:
dutchtouchedmonton@gmail.com



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Source: Dylan Short, *The Edmonton Journal* May 6, 2021

Edmonton commemorative event honours 21 Canadian soldiers who helped liberate the Netherlands in 1945

Close to two dozen veterans were honoured at Edmonton's Kipnes Centre on Wednesday for their service liberating the Netherlands from Nazi rule 76 years ago.

Jerry Bouma, the Netherlands honorary consul for Edmonton, was in attendance at the centre on Wednesday to present each of the 21 veterans with a handwritten letter from a Dutch student thanking them for their role in liberating their country from German occupation in 1945.

In addition to the letters, each veteran received a note from the Dutch Ambassador to Canada and was honoured with a salute. The event was supposed to take place last year for the 75th anniversary but was postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "It's quite humbling," said Bouma. "It's sort of like history at a glance. So, what has happened in 76 years. To see their faces and then to think of what happened, what they did and how the country was freed from a very oppressive regime. It's sort of a kaleidoscope of memories and imaginations in terms of that 76-year period.



South Alberta Light Horse Regiment Honourary Lt. Col. Ralph Young salutes on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, during a commemorative event at the Dianne and Irving Kipnes Centre for Veterans for 21 Canadian soldiers who helped liberate the Netherlands in 1945. Each of the veterans were presented with a personal handwritten letter from a Dutch student and one from the Dutch Embassy. PHOTO BY GREG SOUTHAM /Postmedia

STREET ORGAN (DRAAIORGEL)

Street organs are a distinctive part of Dutch street culture, even today they can often be heard, although they are more likely to be blaring out pop tunes rather than the more traditional melodies. It's true that in Amsterdam the organ tends to attract a more appreciative audience from tourists rather than locals.

With COVID-19 restrictions in effect for more than a year it has been challenging for our members to celebrate special occasions, like special birthdays and anniversaries. So we had a few requests to have our very own street organ 't Hummeltje available for a "drive-by" performance and we think that is a great idea.



So, if you have something special to celebrate please contact Frank Stolk at 780-464-4879 or email him at stolkfm@telus.net and we can bring out our barrel organ (weather permitting) for a unique outside celebration.



Nick Lees at the Kipnes Centre

Nick Lees: Love at first sight has lasted 77 years for dancing Edmonton couple

"Elizabeth's date had spotted me winking at her, and suggested she go over and ask me for an American cigarette. She did, and the rest, as they say, is history."

Edmonton Journal—May 16, 2021

It was love at first sight when Elizabeth Schutte met George Dettling in the ballroom of Amsterdam's Krasnapolski Hotel immediately after the German Second World War surrender to the Allies in May 1945.

Why else would she have agreed in their first conversation to leave her date and climb out of the women's toilet window to meet her new Canadian soldier friend when he had ditched his date?

"We were both 21-year-olds on blind dates at a Victory Dance and I had spotted Elizabeth and thought her very attractive," says Dettling, a member of the Seaforth Highlanders raised in the small farming community of Friedenstal in northern Alberta. "Elizabeth's date had spotted me winking at her and suggested she go over and ask me for an American cigarette. She did and the rest, as they say, is history."

The couple, now 98, both loved to dance, enjoyed walks and met as often as Dettling was free to make a two-hour trip across the city to see her. "We quickly decided to marry, but my commanding officer told me he didn't think it a good idea", says Dettling. "He noted we didn't really know one another, and I didn't speak Dutch and Elizabeth knew little English. But we were determined and married six months later." When his Seaforth Highlanders were ordered home, to stay, Dettling transferred to B.C.'s Westminster Regiment. And when it was ordered home, he joined the Canadian Scottish Regiment and was then later posted with Allied Occupation Forces to Wilhelmshaven, a German North Sea coastal town.

"I was about to be shipped home when we found Elizabeth's papers hadn't been finalized and she'd have to follow me later," says Dettling.

Home alive

As his ship neared Halifax in the spring of 1946, he says: "I just couldn't believe I had made it back alive."

He had been 18 years old when ordered to report to Edmonton for military duty and then later sailed to England for intense training. Dettling's first major shock came when, en route to North Africa and sailing through the Gibraltar Straits, his freighter-and-destroyer convoy was attacked by German aircraft.

"The ship next to us was hit and we watched it sink," he says. "Meanwhile, the freighter on our other side was torpedoed and burning. "Another ship full of nurses was also hit. We saved a few by lifting them from the water onto our ship. We wondered if this was the entrance into hell."



After a brief stay in North Africa, Dettling's regiment was sent to fight in Italy for 18 months and then saw more action as it advanced through France and Belgium and on to the Netherlands.

Dettling doesn't like to dwell on his war experiences but says: "Soldiers all around me succumbed to hellfire and crumpled to the ground. The war took us to many places, but the sense of destruction and shattered lives was the same everywhere."

Jimmie arrives

The couple's son Jimmie, born in Amsterdam in 1946, was six months old when Elizabeth was reunited with her husband in Edmonton after sailing into Nova Scotia on Oct. 8 that year. "She thought she had arrived and wasn't expecting to have to make a six-day train trip to reach me in Edmonton," says Dettling.

"Fortunately, some 100 Red Cross nurses were at the station to hold children while soldiers and their brides hugged and kissed."

Sadly, when Dettling was to be honoured at his home this year on May 5, Dutch Liberation Day, Elizabeth fell and broke her hip before company arrived. "Elizabeth is recovering well and I am hoping she will be at home again in two or three weeks," says the former soldier. "She is in the Royal Alexandra Hospital and shouts when I arrive, 'Here comes my liberator to rescue me again.' "

Elizabeth at first disliked Edmonton and its cold, freezing winters and was aggressively encouraged by her mother to return to Amsterdam. "It was a strange land and she didn't speak much English," says Dettling. "She thought the Dutch were much more happy-go-lucky by nature and Canadians had a very dry sense of humour.

"Elizabeth also thought Canadians were also not as good as the Dutch at decorating their homes or making coffee, which Canadians served in bowls rather than in a demitasse."

Lasting love

The couple eventually bought an affordable house through a government home plan for veterans and Dettling later worked for 25 years for National Defence as a carpenter.

"Elizabeth and I, of course, got on well and have seven children, 13 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren," says Dettling.

"We met at a dance and still enjoy dancing. Sometimes, we just find ourselves dancing in the kitchen."

Their Houston-based married daughter Diana Dettling Buckley, who is writing a book about her mother's involvement with the Dutch wartime resistance, says her brothers in Canada report their dad is lonely and yearning for his wife's return.

"He listens regularly to Britain's wartime Forces Sweetheart Vera Lynn singing We'll Meet Again, her song that inspired millions of troops and civilians with yearning and optimism. After 77 years of marriage, my parents are still very much in love."





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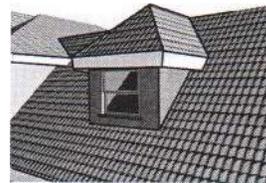
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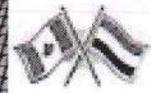
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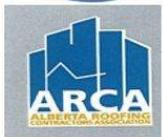
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