

## **DUTCH ROYAL FAMILY**



Princess Ariane (16), Princess Alexia (18), Queen Máxima (52), King Willem Alexander, who will be celebrating his 57th birthday on April 27, King's Day, and Crown-Princess Amalia (19)

# EDITORIAL

by Jenny Smits  
780-975-7426 - [dutchtouchedmonton@gmail.com](mailto:dutchtouchedmonton@gmail.com)



Dear readers:

Thank you for coming out to our Annual Membership Meeting. It is good to know that even if you cannot participate in some of our events the DCC is still dear to your heart. We will continue trying to come up with events that our members would like to attend. Our regular weekly activities are continuing as usual.

We hope that everyone, whether you are born in the Netherlands or in Canada and have Dutch roots, is interested in celebrating Kings Day with us on April 27: King Willem Alexander's 57th birthday. We would like to see all things orange. There will be Dutch snacks and entertainment and our very first *Vrijmarkt*. The club will be open from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm.



With the weather warming up it's nice to be out and about again and we are looking forward to putting away our winter clothes for the season. Before we know it the tulips and many other flowers will be blooming again in Edmonton. Enjoy the Spring season.

*Jenny*

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 email address** to:

**Dutch Canadian Club  
13312—142 Street NW  
Edmonton, AB T5L4T3**

Or remit via e-transfer to [dccedm@gmail.com](mailto:dccedm@gmail.com)

### BOARD MEMBERS

Frank Stolk	President—780-464-4879— <a href="mailto:stolkfm@telus.net">stolkfm@telus.net</a>
Rinske TerHeide	Vice President/President Windmills—780-960-9758 <a href="mailto:rin.terheide@gmail.com">rin.terheide@gmail.com</a>
Willie Korendyk	Secretary/Membership coordinator—780-454-2231
Jenny Smits	Treasurer—780-473-0905— <a href="mailto:jismits45@gmail.com">jismits45@gmail.com</a>
Ria Bok	Communications Officer—780 472-2725
Pauline Commandeur	Vice President Windmills—780-458-2024
Pieter Van Leeuwen	Director—780-459-5367
Nels Andersen	Director—780-481-7697
Marijke Couvreur	Director— <a href="mailto:mcouvreur@hotmail.com">mcouvreur@hotmail.com</a>
Club phone:	780-452-2861



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**April 27, 2024**

**King's Day celebration at the  
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**13312 142 Street NW, Edmonton, AB**

**11:00 am until 2:00 pm**

**Celebrate your Dutch heritage - wear your orange!**

**DUTCH DELICACIES—  
ENTERTAINMENT**

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**If you are interested in participating in the Vrijmarkt we have tables available for free. A great opportunity to sell your surplus items and for your children and grandchildren to sell toys they have outgrown.**

**Items can be set up on Friday night or Saturday morning from 10:00 am**

**For more information phone 780-975-7426**

## Highlights from the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on March 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM

- 32 members were in attendance.
- Moment of silence to remember the members we have lost during the year.
- President's report was a reflection on the year just finished. The two offers to buy our facilities were both cancelled after a few weeks. The Scandinavian groups and the bands who rented our building have found new locations and there will be no more rentals unless it is within 60 days due to the possibility of a sale at any time.
- Minutes from the 2022 AGM were read and adopted.
- Financial statements for the year ended 2023 were presented, adopted and discussed. With no more rental income we have to be managing our funds more carefully. We can use 100% of the casino funds received which can see us through this year if there are no unexpected expenses.
- Our bank accounts will be consolidated into one bank. The Windmills will now be known as "The Windmills Activities Committee" because they are organizing all our special events and look after all our food sales while the main board looks after everything else related to the club.
- The Klaverjas Club, the Card Making club, the Sewing Club, the Windmills and the Saturday social group reported on their activities.
- After a brief recess elections were held. Willie Korendyk and Rinske TerHeide finished their 3-year term and accepted their position for another 3 years. Judy Boekholt's vacated position with two years left was filled by Marijke Couvreur, so we have a full 9-member board again.
- Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM

## Welcome Marijke Couvreur

At our general meeting we welcomed a new board member Marijke Couvreur. She is a welcome addition to our team. Who is Marijke? This is her story:

*"I was born and raised in The Hague, the Netherlands, as the only child to Harry and Willy Kavelaars.*

*I had a wonderful upbringing and the most loving mom and dad. Living so close to the beach and ocean I remember the almost daily trips to "het strand" with my dad by bicycle. (No wonder I miss the ocean so much after moving to Alberta).*

*My real dream was to become a professional ballet dancer, but after graduating from High School, I took 3 years of college to become an international secretary. After work I would teach ballet in the evenings and danced in a small company myself. Always on the go and my toes LOL!!*

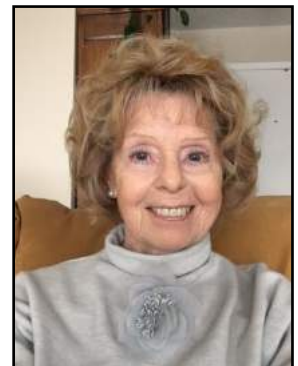
*I met my (Dutch) husband who was a widower with 4 young children, married and had an instant family. My daughter Kim was born in Holland. After we moved to Ontario my son Daniel was born in Toronto.*

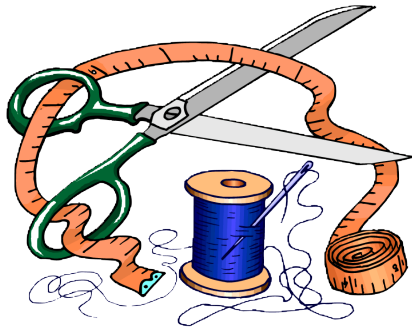
*We moved to Edmonton in the late 90's. I worked for Scott Steel and as a senior buyer for Weldco-Beales Mfg. until the big lay-offs due to Covid. Through Weldco Beales I was involved with "Big Brothers Big Sisters" and was a mentor to a child on a weekly basis. I also served on the Social Committee.*

*When my parents moved to Alberta they became members of the DCC. My Dad loved to play billiards and always looked forward to the Thursday afternoon get togethers. I would quickly stop in after work and really enjoyed visiting and getting to know people.*

*After my retirement I started coming on Thursday afternoons and even for a short while joined the "knitting club"; but then Covid shut it all down.*

*I enjoy giving a helping hand where needed. Some of my other volunteer jobs at the moment are as a treasurer on a church board of Missions, a volunteer for the "Mealtrain" for the sick by visiting with them. I also help out at the Edmonton Foodbank. I look forward to being part of the DCC board."*





## SEWING & CRAFT CIRCLE

By Jenny Smits - 780-975-7426

Welcome back Vicky. We were happy to see you again after your surgery and a long recovery time. We are working on some new projects, some work out better than others. We meet every Tuesday from 10:30 until 3:00.

*Jenny*



## KLAVERJAS CLUB

The Klaverjas club meets on Tuesdays from 11:00 until 3.



## CARD MAKERS

By Ria Bok - 780-472-2725

From the card makers: just our dates for April. We will. Have card making on April 13 and April 27. We are still going strong with our cards. Come and join us, we just have a fun day.

*from Ria and her girls*



## SATURDAY SOCIALS

By Aris Smits - 780-920-7699

### April 6 - BINGO 1:00 pm

We start at 1:00 and play a number of different games with prizes to be won. You can always bring a friend because guests are very welcome too.



### April 13 - PAINT NIGHT 4:30 pm

Bobbi will be back for a few hours of painting fun. Cost is approx. \$20.00 per person which includes canvas and paints and instruction. If interested contact Jenny by April 9 (780-975-7426 jismits45@gmail.com). All ages welcome.

### April 20 - PICKLEBALL 1:00 pm

If you are new to the game of pickleball, Darrell and Jennifer are on hand to help you out with the way pickle ball is played. The rules are simple and fun and it is a family-friendly sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is a fun game and everyone is welcome.



### April 27 - Koningsdag Vrijmarkt 11:00=2:00

## This and That to the Windmills

Spring is here, according to the calendar. But at the time I am writing this, at the end of March, there is still snow on the ground with temperatures way below zero. I guess a little more patience is required before we can start gardening and get our hands in the dirt.



Meanwhile a few events and rituals we associate with spring are already in the past. Our clocks have been moved forward, St Patrick's Day has been celebrated by many and by the time we receive this news letter, even Easter has come and gone. We were able to accommodate the Irish club to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at our facility, since their building was water damaged. I heard from people who attended, that it was a great event, with live music throughout and performances by the Irish dancers. They had a bag pipe band playing and the main hall was overflowing with people. St Patrick's Day seems to be a growing event, here in Canada as well as the world over.

A week later on Saturday March 23 we held our AGM, the Annual General Meeting. Around 32 club members were present for this meeting, compared to 37 last year. The meeting was called to order and we started off with a moment of silence in reflection of the members we lost this year. Frank started off with his opening remarks and shared his communications with the real estate agent in regards to the sale of our property. It has been a year since we made the decision to put the property up for sale and although there were some initial offers that looked promising, no other news to report. Minutes were read by Willie and accepted as read and Jenny presented us with the financial statement. Thanks to the casino we worked last year we have the funds to keep going till the end of this year, with some careful money management. Some people questioned the fact we had made the decision to consolidate the separate Windmill/Auxiliary account with the General club's account. It just did not make sense anymore to have two separate accounts with the decline in activities. We are one club and it will simplify the bookkeeping for now and in the future. We will however still have two distinct boards. There is the main board conducting meetings regarding the general operations of the club and building maintenance, and an alternate board, previously known as the Windmills/Auxiliary Board, but we now call it the Windmills Activity Committee. This board will meet more frequently to discuss meal planning and club activities. They will have full control over any money they want to spend, without having to move money back and forth between two accounts. The representatives of both boards remain unchanged, except with one addition. A big thank you and welcome to Marijke Couvreur, who has agreed to fill the vacant position on the main board. Willie Korendijk and myself, with our 3 year term coming to an end, have agreed to stay on, after it became clear there were no other members willing to take over our positions. The meeting was adjourned and a few people stayed to socialize for a while, having a drink along with a kroket.

We are now looking toward the remaining months of this season. Over the past few years our Thursday turn-out has dwindled and the question is what we can do to make it more interesting. Some people come to socialize, some people come in the hope to have a foursome to play Klaverjas, and for some it sometimes disappointing for when there is no one to play a game of billiards with. A few people enjoy working on the large jig saw puzzle of 5,000 pieces we have currently on the table. We're experimenting with serving lunch at 1:00 instead of at 3:00 o'clock. Some people like it while some people don't. As always, we can't please them all. We will review this again when we start the new season in September.

With spring season on the way we have the following events coming up. April 27th is Kings Day, King Willem Alexander's birthday, a big celebration in the Netherlands. We will mark this day at our Thursday social on April 25 with a toast to the king and wearing something orange. But in addition we have planned to have a celebration at the club on the actual day, on Saturday April 27 from 11am till 2pm. We will try to follow the Dutch tradition and put on a free market. This will be happening in the main hall. Tables will be set

up for anyone who wants to take the opportunity to sell and get rid of those used items they not longer want. It is also an opportunity to bring the kids and grandkids and have them set up a table to sell their toys, books or clothes they have outgrown and make a little pocket money in the process. These markets are very popular and are a big part of the King's Day celebrations in the Netherlands We hope to have some entertainment and Dutch snacks will also be available.

The next event we have planned is on May 4th in the Nordic room. May 5 is Liberation Day (Bevrijdingsdag) in the Netherlands. Celebrating the end of WWII, while on the day before (May 4th) memorials are being held all over the country in remembrance of all those who died during the 5 years of German occupation and subsequent wars and peacekeeping missions. We want to mark those days with an observance, as well as a celebration on Saturday May 4 in the Nordic room. We will start off at 10:30 with a (Dutch) pancake breakfast, followed by a small ceremony at the cenotaph in remembrance of those who died for our freedom. Afterwards there will be more time to reflect and socialize over coffee and a drink. I hope everyone will consider attending these events. It is an opportunity to enjoy the club building while we are still able to do so.

This summer there is lots of sports excitement to look forward to. The UEFA Euro cup soccer will take place in Germany, June 14-July 14. With the time difference the games will be televised early in the morning. The Netherlands plays Poland in group D on July 14 at 7 am. Following right after the soccer Euros, the Olympic Games are being held in Paris, France, July 16 to August 11. And don't forget the "Tour de France" starting June 29 in Florence, Italy and finishing July 21 in Nice, instead of in Paris due to the Olympics.

Also for those who may be interested; the "Euro Vision Song Contest" Grand Final will take place on May 11 in Malmo Sweden. There are 37 entries, with 2 semi finals, first one on May 7 and the Netherlands competes in the semi final on May 9 with a song called "Europapa" by Joost Klein. All the songs are available on YouTube.

Thinking about spring and gardening; I am hoping to get a few people together sometime in May to do some pruning and weeding around the property to make it look presentable for potential buyers. I know many of you can't do this anymore but let me know if you feel you may be up to helping with this and spare a few hours. I also hope to see more of you come out on Thursdays.

*Rinske*

President of the Windmills

### Windmills lunches

- \* On Thursday April 25 we will have a toast to King Willem Alexander for his 57th birthday including a special lunch. The color orange is encouraged.
- \* For Mother's Day on Thursday May 9 we will be serving a High Tea. You may dress up for this occasion.

### Saturday May 4

We are commemorating the many casualties of wars as is the Dutch tradition on May 4th, followed by a Liberation celebration.

- \* 10:30 - Dutch pancake brunch
- \* 11:30 - Memorial ceremony
- \* Wartime memories and stories
- \* Coffee and cake in the Nordic room





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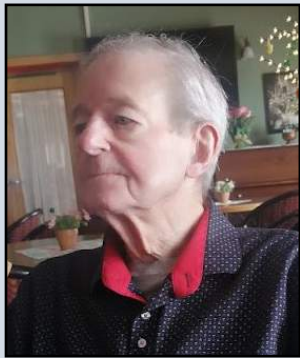
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On March 28 we not only enjoyed a delicious easter lunch, we also celebrated two birthdays with two cakes.



Piet Putters turned 84 on March 27



Ed Granoien turned 83 on March 28.

Congratulations to both of them.

We congratulate everyone who has celebrated a birthday or an anniversary.

If you would like to share these or other special events with our members please email me at:

**[dutchtouchedmonton@gmail.com](mailto:dutchtouchedmonton@gmail.com)**  
or phone 780-975-7426 and I will include it on our member's page.

## Members Page



Thank you for the well wishing cards and gifts I received on my 75th birthday .

Also, a big thank you, to all who came out to celebrate this day with me and my family.

It was a day to remember.

I really appreciate it.

Roel ter Heide

### Volunteers wanted

We need a few volunteers to help us out with the outside springtime yard work like pruning and weeding to make our property look good for the summer. If you are able and can spare a few hours to help please contact

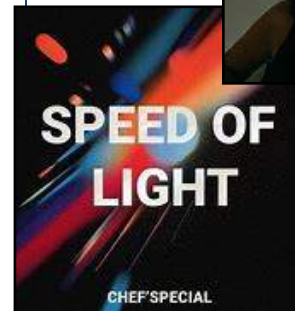


Rinske at 780-960-9758  
[rin.terheide@gmail.com](mailto:rin.terheide@gmail.com)

## Nederlandse Top 10 March 23/24

Source: 100% NL

- |    |                 |                               |
|----|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1  | Europapa        | Joost Klein                   |
| 2  | Stukje Van Mij  | Meau                          |
| 3  | Speed Of Light  | Chef Special                  |
| 4  | Nothing To Lose | Douwe Bob                     |
| 5  | Waterdicht      | Hanna Mae                     |
| 6  | Écoutez moi     | Claude                        |
| 7  | Alles Op Gevoel | Flemming, Zoë Tauran & Ronnie |
| 8  | Undecided       | Rondé                         |
| 9  | Tainted         | Ilse de Lange                 |
| 10 | Blindelings     | Antoon                        |



## Dutch cycling team given clearance to launch “space helmets”

International cycling’s ruling body UCI has approved the controversial “space helmets” worn by Dutch team Visma-Lease a Bike despite reservations about the streamlined design.

The helmets turned heads and attracted ridicule in some quarters after they made their debut in time-trial races in Tirreno-Adriatico and Paris-Nice earlier this month.

The distinctive shape, with a large protruding point on top of the helmet, is supposed to make the riders more aerodynamic. But the UCI said helmets were introduced into the sport to improve safety, not performance.

“We are concerned about the trend in the design of time trial helmets that focus more on performance than the primary function of a helmet, namely to ensure the safety of the wearer in the event of a fall,” the governing body said.

Visma’s performance manager Mathieu Heijboer earlier criticised UCI for being influenced by emotion and the response to the helmets on social media. “If the UCI has a problem with the design, they should have indicated this when the helmet was submitted for approval,” he said.

UCI approved the helmets for use for the next 12 months after concluding that they did not breach the rules, but added that it would be conducting an in-depth analysis of its regulations.

The helmets must also be made available for sale to the general public under the conditions of the licence.



Source: DutchNews.nl

## Brain Teasers *by Marwina Prent*



1. I cannot talk, but I always reply when spoken to. What am I?
2. When is the top of a mountain similar to a savings account?
3. I love to dance, and twist. I shake my tail as I sail away. When I fly wingless into the sky. What am I?
4. When you stop to look, you can always see me. But if you try to touch me, you can never feel me. Although you walk towards me, I remain the same distance from you. What am I?
5. What is it that no one wants to have, but no one wants to lose either?
6. What goes through cities and fields, but never moves?
7. What can go through glass without breaking it?
8. What gets bigger the more you take away?
9. What kind of room has no walls, door or windows?
10. It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?

Answers on page 15



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## HANDY HOUSEHOLD HINTS

1. Do you want to keep your bathroom cleaner without spending hours scrubbing? Then it's time to break out the squeegee. Keep it stored on a hook inside the shower. This is so helpful because the mineral content of the shower water settles on the tiles, walls, and glass over time, leaving hard-to-clean spots if you don't wipe them away while they're still wet.
2. Instead of trying to remove the soap scum from your shower curtain while it's hanging, run it on a gentle wash cycle in your washing machine. To boost the soap scum-removal power, toss a little ammonia in there, and allow it to hang dry.
3. If you are finding your clothes a bit musty after a wash you should be leaving the door to your washing machine open for a few hours after your last load has finished. If this isn't enough to combat the smell, or if you have actual mold in the machine or on its seals, mix white vinegar and baking soda to help freshen things up.

## King's Day (Koningsdag) in the Netherlands



Koningsdag in Amsterdam

April 27 is *Koningsdag* in the Netherlands. It is a National holiday when the whole country comes together to celebrate the birthday of their King Willem Alexander. Large scale celebrations are being held all over the country. The Dutch love to party and every city, town and village participates in organizing special events, with music, fairs and markets. The Dutch red, white and blue flags are displayed from buildings and homes, orange flags and decorations are everywhere and people dress up in anything orange. There are parties and games for children along with the very popular “*Vrij markt*”, a flea market, where children display and sell their toys they have outgrown and adults sell or give away their no longer wanted used items. The

whole country gets in the party spirit on that day, with many just wanting to party and others feeling united in showing their patriotism and love for the Dutch Royal family.

The city of Amsterdam draws a lot of party goers where the celebrations already start the night before on April 26 *Koningsnacht* (King's night), when local bars are allowed to stay open till 4 AM. The canals and waterways are congested with small boats decorated in orange, filled to overflowing with people drinking and partying. But similar celebrations are held all over the country, making for a truly spectacular sight, when the whole country seems to be celebrating, decked out in a sea of orange.



Vrijmarkt

This National holiday has been celebrated since 1885, on different dates. The first was observed on August 31 when it was called *Prinsessedag*, Princess Day. The Dutch King at the time, Willem III (1849-1890), was not well liked and the government was looking for a means to promote national reconciliation and unity. The decision was made to have a patriotic celebration, observing the birthday of the King's little, but more popular, daughter Wilhelmina. The princess, who was born on August 31, 1880, celebrated her 5th birthday while being paraded through the streets, waving to the crowds. This first observance started in the town of Utrecht but in the following years this celebration grew and expanded to other municipalities and to the rest of the country. When Wilhelmina inherited the throne in 1890, upon the death of her father, *Prinsessedag* was changed to *Koninginnedag* or Queen's Day. She was only 10 when her father died and because she was too young to reign, her mother Emma (1858-1934) took on the role of Queen-Regent for 8 years until her daughter turned 18.



King Willem II and Queen Emma

Meanwhile the *Koninginnedag* celebrations proved to be very popular and when Wilhelmina became of age in 1898 her inauguration was postponed by 6 days so it would not interfere with *Koninginnedag*. Her reign would last for another 50 years, but Wilhelmina rarely attended the *Koninginnedag* celebrations when she became an adult. She attended ceremonies for her Silver jubilee in 1923, which included massive festivities in Amsterdam and The Hague, despite her request not to spend large sums because of the poor economic conditions at the time. Wilhelmina also made an exception by attending the celebrations on her 50th birthday in 1930.



Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Hendrik



Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard

During World War II the *Koninginnedag* celebrations were banned and the organizing Orange committees destroyed their records in fear of Nazi reprisals. During the German occupation the Royal family lived in exile in Canada. Until her death in 1934 the Queen's mother Emma would be presented with an annual floral tribute from the locals in the town of Baarn on her birthday, August 2nd, at Soestdijk palace. In 1937, Wilhelmina's daughter and heiress, Princess Juliana (1909-2004) took up residence at Soestdijk palace, following her marriage to Prince Bernard Von Lippe Biesterveld, (1911-2001) and the townsfolk started to present their floral tributes to her on her birthday on April 30th. In 1948 Wilhelmina abdicated and Juliana became Queen and starting in 1949, the date of *Koninginnedag* was changed from August 31 to April 30.

Wilhelmina meanwhile, who had been a widow since the death of her husband, Duke Hendrik Von Mecklenburg-Schwerin, in 1934, spent the days of her retirement living in seclusion at "Het Loo" palace where she wrote her memoirs titled "*Eenzaam maar niet alleen*" (Lonely but not alone). She died in 1962.

The floral presentations to Queen Juliana on her birthday continued at Soestdijk palace. This tradition had grown to long lines of well wishers, from every part of the country, filing past the Queen, presenting her with gifts and flowers. With the onset of television the whole country would watch this event being televised. From year to year Queen Juliana was seen receiving these floral tributes, while standing on the front steps of Soestdijk Palace along with her husband, Prince Bernard, their daughters, and later also their families.



Soestdijk Defilé



Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus

Juliana's eldest daughter, Crown Princess Beatrix, born in 1938, ascended the throne in 1980, after Juliana abdicated. Although Beatrix was born on January 31, she decided to keep the date of April 30 to celebrate *Koninginnedag*, as springtime seemed a more suitable time for the festivities. However she changed her mother's tradition of receiving the floral parade at Soestdijk Palace, instead choosing to visit different Dutch towns each year and join in the festivities with her family: her husband Prince Claus Von Amsberg (1926-2002) and their children. In 2009 Queen Beatrix was celebrating Queen's day in Apeldoorn when a man attempted to attack her by trying to ram the royal family's bus with his car. Instead he drove into the crowd and crashed into a monument killing seven people, including himself. The whole country was in shock, putting a damper on the day and many activities were cancelled.

Queen Beatrix abdicated on *Koninginnedag* 2013 and her son Willem-Alexander, born in 1967, became King. He is the first King since the observance of this national holiday began. Since 2014 this day is now known as *Koningsdag* (King's day) and the celebrations were moved by three days, to April 27, Willem-Alexander's birthday. Following in the tradition his mother started, King Willem-Alexander visits a city or town somewhere in the Netherlands, accompanied by his wife Queen Máxima and their three daughters, to celebrate his birthday. This year, in 2024, the city of Emmen in Drenthe has been chosen for this event. His eldest daughter, Crown Princess Catharina-Amalia, was born December 7th 2003 and when she takes over the throne, this national holiday will once again be called *Koninginnedag*, (Queen's day), the question is on which date the celebration will take place once she becomes Queen. But regardless the date, the Dutch are always ready to party.



King Willem Alexander and Queen Máxima

# Netherlands the sixth happiest country in the world; Down one spot

Source: *NL Times*

The Netherlands is the sixth happiest country in the world, according to the World Happiness Report 2024. The country dropped one spot compared to last year. Finland is the happiest country for the 7th year running, though Denmark is catching up, the researchers said.

For this report, researchers from Gallup, the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network surveyed people on their life satisfaction and looked at things like the gross national product per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and corruption in a country. They found that happiness differs a lot for the young and the old. “In some cases, these differences favor the old, as in the United States and Canada, where the rankings for those aged 60 and older are 50 or more places higher than for those under 30. In other cases, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, the reverse is true.” The Netherlands is one of the countries where the elderly are happier than the young, but the difference is much less stark. Dutch people over 60 are the 7th happiest in the world, while Dutch under 30 are the 9th.

For the first time since the report’s first publication over a decade ago, the United States (23rd) and Germany (24th) dropped out of the top 20 happiest countries. None of the countries with the largest populations are in the top 20 anymore. “In the top ten countries only the Netherlands and Australia have populations over 15 million. In the whole of the top twenty, only Canada and the United Kingdom have populations over 30 million.”

The researchers noted that global happiness inequality has increased by over 20 percent over the past decade in all regions and age groups. Though the extent differs a lot by age and region. Men also tend to be happier than women. “In 2021-2023, negative emotions were in every region more prevalent for females than males,” the researchers said. The gender gap was larger at higher ages almost everywhere.

According to the researchers, Finland residents maintain their top spot for happiness through their close bond with nature and a healthy work-life balance. The Finns also have a strong welfare society, high trust in state authorities, low levels of corruption, and free healthcare and education.

The Eastern European countries of Serbia, Bulgaria, and Latvia had the largest increase in their experienced happiness. The sharpest declines were in Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Jordan. Afghanistan, plagued by a humanitarian crisis since the Taliban regained control in 2020, is the unhappiest country in the world at 143rd place, the same as last year.

The top 10 happiest countries in the world are:

1. Finland
2. Denmark
3. Iceland
4. Sweden
5. Israel
6. Netherlands
7. Norway
8. Switzerland
9. New Zealand
10. Austria

and in 15th place: Canada



## Groningen egg balls to roll off production line into rest of the Netherlands

The Groningen provincial authorities have given a €45,000 subsidy for the development of a machine to produce a local delicacy, known as an “egg ball”, in greater quantities and spread their appeal beyond provincial borders.

The *Grunneger aaierbaal*, a hardboiled egg dipped in ragout and breadcrumbs and then deep fried, is a popular bar snack in Groningen and joined the national intangible heritage list in 2017. They are similar to the Scotch egg, which is wrapped in sausage meat.

*Eierballen* are currently made by hand at sausage factory Uildriks in Hoogezand. The council grant means it now has the funding to continue work on an egg ball machine, owner Jan Peter van der Zee told local broadcaster RTV Noord.

‘Every egg has a slightly different shape and that is one of the reasons egg balls are made by hand. The egg has to be placed neatly in the middle with the ragout and breadcrumbs around it just so,’ he said. The snack has a limited shelf life, Van der Zee said, and cannot be frozen or it tastes “like rubber”. The packaged machine egg balls will last a bit longer and “can travel a bit further”, he said.

Van der Zee said he expects the egg ball factory line to be operational in a couple of months. “We are at the testing stage and as soon as it’s ready tasty egg balls will be rolling off the production line,” he told the broadcaster.

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Source: DutchNews.nl



Wasn't funny at the time .... In September 1995, my husband Al and I with our friends Chrisie and Paulie did a fast four-week driving trip to Nova Scotia. On our return route, Al wanted me to take a picture of the “Oui” sign in Quebec, during the time of the referendum. Al pulled onto the shallow sloping shoulder, and I opened the Suburban’s front passenger door to get out. Because I had the VHS camcorder (a large shoulder-supported unit) between my feet and a picture camera in my hand, I had to lift my left leg over the camcorder. As I was trying to move my right leg out of the way, I rolled out of the vehicle because

of the slope. While I was falling, my left foot clipped the camcorder and it also started falling. I landed on my back and caught the camcorder with my left foot against the door frame. Meanwhile, Paulie was out of the vehicle to take pictures and didn't know what to do ... help me or save the camcorder. The camcorder slid to the ground as I was rolling down the four-foot embankment into a dry ditch. It all happened so fast, nothing could be done. I stood, dusted off the dirt, climbed the embankment, took the picture, got back in the vehicle, and we continued our journey. No one said a word except to ask if I was okay - only a few bruises. Few minutes later I said it was too bad no one took a video ... probably would have made a hit with the funniest video show. We all laughed.



Marwina Prent

### Answers from page 11:

- |                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. An echo                      | 7. A light    |
| 2. When it peaks one's interest | 8. A hole     |
| 3. A kite                       | 9. A mushroom |
| 4. The horizon                  | 10. Your name |
| 5. A lawsuit                    |               |
| 6. A road                       |               |



# April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Sewing Klaverjas	3	4 Windmills	5 Pub night	6 
7	8	9 Sewing Klaverjas	10	11 Windmills	12 Pub night	13 Card Making Paint night
14	15	16 Sewing Klaverjas	17	18 Windmills	19 Pub night	20 
21	22	23 Sewing Klaverjas	24	25 Windmills	26 Pub night	27 Card Making <b>KONINGS DAG</b>
28	29	30 Sewing Klaverjas				



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