

DUTCH HERITAGE MONTH FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AT QUEEN'S PARK

'Proud of our Dutch heritage, even more proud to be Canadian!'

- by Theo Luykenaar -

Schiedam born, Dutch-Canadian Elizabeth Witmer, former MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo and now Chair of Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board returned to Queen's Park to MC a Flag Raising Ceremony to celebrate Dutch Heritage Month.



• Speaker of the House David Levac addressing the MPP's, the veterans and Dutch Canadians present. Behind him from left to right: Elizabeth Witmer; Ernie Hardeman; John Gerretsen and Consul General Hans Horbach.

After all, it was her private member's bill to have the month of May proclaimed Dutch Heritage Month in Ontario which bill received unanimously consent from members of the Ontario Legislature in 2011. Ms. Witmer extended a warm welcome everyone and asked the MPP's present to stand behind her. Consul General Hans Horbach then raised the Dutch flag, which was followed by the singing of both the Dutch and Canadian national anthems.

Surrounded by a number of MPP's, Ms. Witmer introduced Attorney General, the Hon. John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and the Islands, who introduced mem-

bers of the Liberal Party present, including the Hon. Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Labour, and as always brought a smile to those in attendance. "The Dutch immigrated because after the war there was no land, no housing and they were also overtaxed." Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford, talked about his family who came to Canada to farm, yet none of the five boys became farmers. "Becoming Minister of Agriculture made up for it somewhat." He introduced the Conservative MPP's and introduced his sister's son John Vanhof, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane, who introduced the

NDP members present, and noted the influence that the Dutch had in horticulture and landscaping. Before Consul General addressed the MPP's, the veterans and Dutch Canadians present, Speaker of the House David Levac, MPP for Brant, welcomed all in attendance and like the other speakers recognized the contribu-



• Consul General Hans Horbach. Behinf him from left to right: Elizabeth Witmer; Ernie Hardeman; John Gerretsen and Speaker of the House David Levac.



• Consul General Hans Horbach raising the Dutch Flag at Queen's Park.



• Words of welcome from MC Elizabeth Witmer.



• Delicious Dutch cheese and snacks were served at the reception.

tions that Dutch-Canadians have made to the economic, political, social and cultural fabric of Ontario's society. Consul General Hans Horbach noted how the



• John Gerretsen, always full of enthusiasm.



• Former Minister of Agriculture Ernie Alderman.



• Second generation Dutch-Canadian John Vanhof.



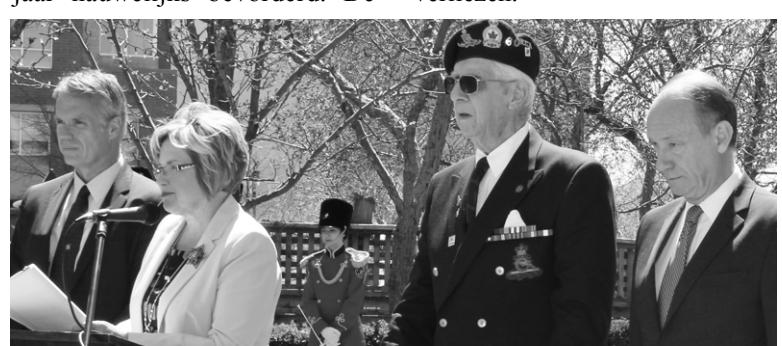
• Deputy Consul General Jeanine de Vos and MPP Ernie Hardeman.

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Nederlandse COURANT hoopt voor 2014 media-sponsor te zijn, want we willen al het goede werk van oprichter Jack van der Laan en ook de stad Burlington niet verliezen.



• Blair Lancaster met de sprekers: burgemeester Rick Goldring, consul generaal Hans Horbach en WO2 veteraan Ken Philips.



• Rick Goldring en Hans Horbach hijzen de vlaggen.



• Gepensioneerde rechter Jan van der Woerd, Hans Horbach en Jack van der Laan, oprichter van de Canada-Netherlands Friendship Day.

CANADA NETHERLANDS FRIENDSHIP DAY

- door Theo Luykenaar -

De stad Burlington vierde de Canada-Netherlands Friendship Day met het hijsen van de vlaggen van Nederland en Canada en het zingen van beide volksliederen, begeleid door drie trompettisten van de Burlington Teen Tour Band.



• MC Blair Lancaster opened de Canada-Netherlands Friendship Day voor de ongeveer 110 aanwezigen.

Dit vond plaats op 4 mei voor het stadhuis. Wethouder Blair Lancaster, in 1978 Miss Canada, was de MC en introduceerde de drie sprekers, burgemeester Rick Goldring, consul generaal Hans Horbach en WO2 veteraan Ken Philips, naast andere gasten zoals Sonja Horbach, MP Mike Wallace, MPP Jane McKenna en voorzitter van het Burlington-Apeldoorn comité, Arnold Koopman.

Officieel valt de Canada-Netherlands Friendship Day op 5 mei, maar wordt traditioneel op een zaterdag gevierd. Omdat 4 mei de dag van de Dodenherdenking is in Nederland werd ook hier twee minuten stilte geobserveerd.

Na het hijsen van de vlaggen was er een gezellige receptie in de aula van het stadhuis, met koffie en thee en natuurlijk koekjes van Voortman Cookies uit Burlington. Er waren gratis exemplaren van