

Burlington Mundialization Committee Apeldoorn subcommittee 2016 annual report

Members of the Apeldoorn subcommittee include council appointed members of the Mundialization Committee and citizen volunteers:

- Charles Minken, Chair
- Peter Bridger
- Arnold Koopman
- Bill Stafford
- Miles Ross
- Hassan Raza
- Mary Vuk
- Ed Dorr
- Johanna Haan
- Anne Koopman
- Janet Lawrence (volunteer)
- Shirley Stafford (volunteer)
- Julie Rogers-Shermet (volunteer)
- David Knapp (volunteer)
- Judith Genis (volunteer)

The twin city relationship between the cities of Burlington and Apeldoorn continues to grow with the key driving force being the relationships that have developed between citizens, elementary and high school students, teachers and officials of both communities.

The Burlington- Apeldoorn relationship exemplifies the goals of the Mundialization Committee to promote Burlington as a member of the international community, and mutual understanding of other cultures and people.

2016 Annual Report Highlights:

- Elementary school pen pal and art exchange programs - ongoing
- High school student exchange program. Apeldoorn students visited Burlington - September
- Canada Netherlands Friendship Day celebration - May
- Mayor of Apeldoorn and 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums visit - May
- Dutch Food and Games evening at the Legion - September
- Library presentation on the Life and Works of Johannes Vermeer a Dutch Painter
- Poem Presentation
- Blooms of Friendship

Elementary school pen pal and art exchanges:

For the last number of years, strong relationships have developed between several Burlington and Apeldoorn elementary school students. Burlington elementary schools include: Alexander's, Mohawk, Pineland and Ryerson public schools. Artwork from the exchanges was exhibited at the partner schools as well as city hall in both cities. This program has grown through the efforts of dedicated teachers in both communities to include 11 classes from 6 elementary schools.

High school student travel exchange:

In September high school students and teachers from Apeldoorn visited Burlington, and were billeted with local families. Burlington high schools include; Robert Bateman, Lester B. Pearson, Nelson and Dr. Frank J. Hayden. Apeldoorn high schools include: KSG, Gymnasium and Edison College. Students experienced Canadian culture first hand and toured many local and surrounding highlights. The joint projects and friendships developed between students and teachers are the real rewards and highlights of these exchanges. The commitment of teachers from both communities has allowed this program to continue and become a regular event.

Canada Netherlands Friendship Day (CNFD):

Each year on the first Saturday of May, through a ceremony at City Hall, we celebrate the contribution of the Dutch community in Canada and in particular Burlington. In addition, we take this opportunity to continue to honour the Canadian soldiers who made a leading contribution to the liberation of the Netherlands on May 5th 1945. The event was well attended by citizens, veterans and dignitaries. Highlights included the Alexander's Public School band, Teen Tour Band, Royal Canadian Legion colour guard, The Ambassadors male choir, presentations from teachers, students and dignitaries. In addition, art from Apeldoorn and Burlington elementary school students was displayed.

48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums:

The 48th Highlanders of Holland, accompanied by Apeldoorn Mayor John Berends, Mayor's Chief of Staff and the Chair of the Apeldoorn Burlington Citizen Committee performed in Burlington's Civic Square on May 31, followed by a reception hosted in city hall.

Dutch Food and Games night:

The Dutch food and Games night, held September 21, is an annual event organized in cooperation with the Legion, Branch 60. The evening celebrates Dutch culture with traditional Dutch food and the game of Sjoelbak - a table top shuffle board game popular for young and old in the Netherlands.

Burlington Public Library presentations:

In November, Mr. Bryan Wylie provided a presentation on the life and works of Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer. This event was enthusiastically supported with a turnout of approximately 100 people.

Poem Presentation:

In August, Carla van Surksun, Chair of the Apeldoorn City Poet Committee and past participant of a citizen exchange from Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, read and presented a specially commissioned poem to Mayor Rick Goldring. The poem commemorates the special bond between Burlington and Apeldoorn. Apeldoorn's resident poet is Mr. Hanz Mirck. In 2017 the committee will investigate the opportunity to reciprocate the gesture and commission a poem to present to the City of Apeldoorn.

Blooms of Friendship:

This new program was held in May to celebrate the "blooms" that represent the twinning of Burlington with the cities of Itabashi and Apeldoorn. In addition to the blooming sakura trees at Spencer Smith Park and Itabashi Way, 7,000 tulips were featured in the downtown. Displays were set up at Brock Park, Civic Square, Spencer Smith Park and Apeldoorn Park to highlight the city's twinning relationships. Turnout was poor and as a result will not be repeated next year.

2017 Work Plan Highlights:

- Elementary school pen pal and art exchange programs - ongoing.
- High school student exchange program. Burlington students will visit Apeldoorn. Their stay will include a visit to the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten – April.
- Canada Netherlands Friendship Day celebration. 2017 will be a milestone year for this event as we celebrate its 20th year and incorporate Canada 150 celebrations as well - May.
- Citizen exchange group from Apeldoorn will visit Burlington and be hosted by local families - September.
- Dutch Food and Games evening - September.
- Library presentation on the Golden Age of Dutch Masters - November

2017 marks the beginning of Burlington's 12th year of twinning with Apeldoorn. Many of the committee's plans are ongoing year over year as they are very popular - 2017 will be no exception.

Elementary school pen pal and art exchanges:

The elementary school program will continue in 2017 as before with participation by the following Burlington Schools: Pineland, Frontenac, Ryerson, Mohawk Gardens and Trinity Christian School. The number of participating classes has grown to 11 in both Burlington and Apeldoorn. This is an increase from 6 in the previous year. The art exchange will incorporate a Canada 150 theme and will be showcased at City Hall and other city facilities.

High school student travel exchange:

In April, 21 students from Burlington high schools (Dr. Frank J. Hayden, Nelson, Robert Bateman and Lester B. Pearson) travelled to Holland as a follow up to the visit by Apeldoorn students in the fall of 2016. Burlington students learned about Dutch culture and the shared history between Canada and the Netherlands. Students visited the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten and worked in cooperation with their exchange partners to create profiles of Canadian soldiers involved in the liberation of Holland.

Canada Netherlands Friendship Day (CNFD):

CNFD event was held on May 6, City Hall – Civic Square. This event included a concert by the Teen Tour Band, attendance by local veterans and remarks from the Consul General of the Netherlands, local dignitaries, and high school students returning from their visit to Apeldoorn. As it is Canada's 150th birthday as well as the 20th anniversary of the Canada Netherlands Friendship Day, the 2017 celebrations had very special meaning and attracted a large crowd.

Citizen Exchange:

From September 14 to 24, Burlington will host a group of citizens from Apeldoorn. This is a continuation of the tradition of cultural exchanges.

Dutch Food and Games night:

The Dutch food and Games evening will be held September 20 at the Burlington Legion, Branch 60. This year, a Canada 150 theme will be incorporated into the event as the Apeldoorn citizens involved in the travel exchange will be present.

Burlington Public Library presentations:

In November, Mr. Bryan Wylie will provide a presentation on the Golden Age of Dutch Masters. The library seminars are very well attended by the public.

In summary, 2017 will build on the efforts of the previous years and focus on making the student and citizen exchanges a success and help increase awareness of the special relationship with Apeldoorn and the bonds of friendship with the Netherlands.

A special thanks to all committee members as this group is truly passionate in its ongoing contributions and we hope will do so for many years into the future.

In January 2017 our committee elected Miles Ross as its new chair. We wish him much success!

Charles Minken, Chair
On behalf of the Apeldoorn subcommittee