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Burlington Mundialization Committee
Apeldoorn subcommittee 2017 annual report

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

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

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

The Burlington- Apeldoorn relationship exemplifies the goals of the Mundialization Committee, which is to ‘build bridges’ to connect Burlington with the world, so that our citizens can better understand other cultures and people.

2017 Annual Report Highlights:

- Elementary school pen pal and art exchange programs - ongoing
- High school student exchange; Burlington students visited Apeldoorn – April
- Creation of ‘Canada 150’ video for Apeldoorn for their ‘Canada Fest’ – May; Apeldoorn reciprocated and sent their video to us for Canada Day – July
- Canada Netherlands Friendship Day celebration, which included an elementary school art exhibition – May
- A visit by Princess Margriet and her husband to Burlington - May
- Dutch Food and Games evening at the Legion - September
- Burlington hosted a ‘ Citizens’ Delegation’ from Apeldoorn - September
- Plans initiated in the Fall of 2017 to take Burlington Citizens to Apeldoorn in 2018
- Participation at the ‘Cultural Fair’ at Burlington Central High School - December
- Library presentation – November – CANCELLED (illness)
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- Poet approached to create poem commemorating twin city relationship - Fall
- More focus on publicity and social media – all year

**Elementary school pen pal and art exchanges:**

Strong relationships have developed between several Burlington and Apeldoorn elementary schools. Burlington’s schools included: Mohawk Gardens (3 classes), Pineland (2 classes), Frontenac (2 classes), Ryerson (1 class) public schools, as well as Trinity Christian school (3 classes).

Artwork from 3 participating elementary schools was exhibited at the partner schools, as well as the City Halls in both cities.

**High school student travel exchange:**

In April, 20 high school students and 3 teachers from Burlington visited Apeldoorn and were billeted with local families. The participating Burlington high schools were: Robert Bateman, Lester B. Pearson, Nelson and Dr. Frank J. Hayden. The Apeldoorn high schools were: KSG, Gymnasium and Edison College.

Burlington students experienced Dutch culture and toured many local and surrounding areas. Students made presentations at ‘Holten Canadian War Cemetery’ during a ceremony to honour Canadian soldiers killed while liberating the Netherlands in 1945.

Friendships that have developed between students and teachers are highlights of these exchanges. However, in December, the Halton District School Board decided to no longer support excursions that involve billeting, so our Apeldoorn-Burlington subcommittee will have to make significant changes if a twin city student exchange is to continue.

**Canada 150 video for Apeldoorn:**

A media company contracted by Burlington City Hall interviewed people and used images of local landmarks to create a video showing key aspects of our city. The video debuted during Apeldoorn’s ‘Canada Fest’, which was attended by Ed Dorr.

Later, Apeldoorn created their own video which was shown for the first time at our Canada Day celebrations. Both videos can still be viewed on-line.
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 veterans 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 attendance of 6 veterans + a spouse of a veteran, the full Burlington Teen Tour Band, Army/Sea/Air cadets, the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard, presentations from teachers and students, and greetings from dignitaries including: Mayor, MP, MPP, the Consul General of the Netherlands, and Elizabeth Witmer.

In addition, art from Apeldoorn and Burlington elementary school students was displayed.

Princess Margriet’s visit to Burlington

On May 16, Princess Margriet, along with her husband Pieter van Vollenhoven, came to Burlington. In the morning, they met with elementary and high school students at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Shortly after, Princess Margriet ‘planted’ a tree at the Apeldoorn Park and met residents of our community.

The afternoon included an event at the Royal Botanical Gardens, highlighted by the presence of veterans, cadets, musicians, and members of the public. An evening reception/dinner at Spencers capped off this memorable day.

Dutch Food and Games night:

The Dutch food and Games night, held September 20th, 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 with young and old in the Netherlands.

Burlington hosted Citizens’ Delegation of 20 adults from Apeldoorn

From September 14 to 24, residents of Burlington hosted a delegation of citizens from Apeldoorn. Peter Bridger oversaw the itinerary for the Dutch, which included a ‘welcome reception’ at Mountainside Recreation Centre, a walking tour of downtown Burlington, participation in the Dutch Food and Games Night, and visits to Crawford Lake and Rattlesnake Park. The ‘Apeldoorners’ also visited to Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, and St. Jacobs.

Johanna Haan and Shirley Stafford coordinated the homestay arrangements.
**Plans initiated to take Burlington Citizens to Apeldoorn in 2018**
In the Fall of 2017, plans commenced to select residents from Burlington to travel to Apeldoorn, from April 30 to May 10, 2018. Twenty people have now fully committed to participating in the excursion.

**Participation at ‘Cultural Fair’ at Burlington Central High School**
BCHS, which has a large ESL program, hosted a ‘Culture Fair’ on December 7th for the second year in a row. Charles Minken and Johanna Haan created a display showcasing Dutch culture and games. Many people from our Apeldoorn-Burlington subcommittee attended, as did a large number of people from the community.

**Burlington Public Library presentation: Cancelled**
Mr. Bryan Wylie was booked to do a presentation on ‘Dutch Masters of the Golden Age’. Following his retirement, Bryan had gained a large following for his lectures on arts and culture. However, our event was cancelled. Mr. Wylie became ill, and unfortunately, he died on January 30th, 2018.

**Poems:**
In August 2016, Carla van Surksum, Chair of the Apeldoorn City Poet Committee, read a specially commissioned poem written by Mr. Hanz Mirck to Mayor Rick Goldring. The poem commemorates the special bond between Burlington and Apeldoorn.

In 2017, Burlington invited local resident Dan Murray, winner of the ‘Burlington’s Best Arts Person of the Year Award’ in 2016, to create a poem that will be shared with Apeldoorn in 2018.

**Additional focus on publicity and social media:**
A greater emphasis was placed on promoting events in 2017, including Dutch radio, Cogeco, and the Post. Social media was also used more often. Creation of the ‘Canada 150’ video was one example of efforts to boost awareness of the many activities undertaken by the Apeldoorn-Burlington subcommittee.
2018 Work Plan Highlights:

- Elementary school pen pal and art exchange programs - ongoing.
- High school student exchange program: The Halton District School Board’s decision not to support exchanges that include billeting, means that we will have to look at alternative approaches to see if the exchange is still feasible. For now, the exchange is deferred.
- Poet Dan Murray will complete and present his poem commemorating the twin city relationship between Burlington and Apeldoorn at the CNFD event.
- Canada Netherlands Friendship Day celebration will take place on May 5, 2018.
- Citizen exchange group from Burlington will visit Apeldoorn and be hosted by local families – April 30 to May 10 at which time the poem will be presented to the Mayor of Apeldoorn by means of a video of Dan Murray reading the poem.
- We will either continue to host the Dutch Food and Games evening in September, or try a new event, such as a Rijstafel, a Dutch/Indonesian meal, at another venue.
- We will look for a suitable event, such as a Dutch film evening, that could be hosted by the Burlington Public Library.

2018 marks the beginning of Burlington’s 13th year of twinning with Apeldoorn. Many of the subcommittee’s plans are ongoing year after year as they are very popular, but we do want to provide variety so that events don’t become ‘stale’.

Elementary school pen pal and art exchanges:

The elementary school pen pal program will continue in 2018 with participation by: Pineland, Frontenac, Ryerson, Mohawk Gardens, John Boich, and Trinity Christian School.

The art exchange will be showcased at City Hall on May 5th.

High school student travel exchange:

Since 2000, several hundred Burlington high school students have travelled to the Netherlands where they learned about Dutch culture and the shared history between the two countries. These excursions were very successful, and without major incident.

However, the HDSB has decided not to support future trips that include billeting. As a result, discussions to determine if another approach can maintain the core characteristics of this most worthwhile student exchange are underway.
Canada Netherlands Friendship Day (CNFD):

CNFD event will be held on May 5, City Hall – Civic Square. This event will include a concert by Alexander’s Public School band, attendance by local veterans, and remarks from the ‘new’ Consul General of the Netherlands and as well as other people.

A display of elementary school art from Apeldoorn and Burlington will be showcased inside City Hall.

Citizen Exchange:

From April 30 to May 10, Apeldoorn will host a group of 20 citizens from Burlington. This is a continuation of the tradition of cultural exchanges.

Dutch Food and Games night:

Discussions are underway to determine if we should host another Dutch Food and Games evening in September at Branch 60 of the Legion, or organize another event, such as a Rijstafel that would showcase Dutch food and culture.

Burlington Public Library presentations:

Traditionally, we have worked with the Burlington Public Library to host a lecture on some aspect of Dutch art. This is still a possibility. However, we are looking at alternative approaches, including the possibility of having a Dutch film (with English subtitles) shown.

In January 2018, the Apeldoorn-Burlington subcommittee re-elected Miles Ross as its chair. In addition, Anne Koopman was elected vice-chair.

Miles Ross, Chair
On behalf of the Apeldoorn subcommittee