



May 5, 2020

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### **City Hall flowerbed commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands**

May 5, 2020 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands, and Campbell River's local committee of Dutch nationals marked the milestone with a floral display at City Hall.

Pieter Koeleman, a member of the committee, collaborated with the parks department, who planted hyacinths and tulips, the traditional flower of the Netherlands, in the colours of the Dutch flag around the maple leaf. The maple leaf was decorated with tulip artwork created by Aglaia Koeleman, Mr. Koeleman's daughter.

*"The committee appreciated the immediate cooperation and support we received from the City gardening crew in collaborating on the flowerbed" says Pieter Koeleman. "They were enthusiastic to create a memento to this day, which is so important to the Dutch people."*

Mayor Andy Adams issued a proclamation to commemorate the day, and a small group maintaining appropriate physical distance conducted a flag raising at Spirit Square. Plans for a parade were cancelled due to COVID-19.

*"We recognize the special bond our two countries have shared since the liberation of the Netherlands 75 years ago," said Mayor Andy Adams. "The Canadian Armed Forces played a significant role in liberating the Netherlands, with more than 7,600 giving their lives during the nine-month campaign for the Dutch people's freedom, a key event in the end of World War 2. Although we are unable to celebrate together in person, we remember and honour the anniversary of this important occasion."*

On April 11, 2019, the Parliament of Canada declared May 5 to be Dutch Heritage Day.

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