



ARTHUR, ONTARIO Canada's Most *patriotic* Village

HAVE I TOLD you lately how much I love my job? I love the people I work with, I love writing for the magazine, but maybe the thing I love the most, is all of the wonderful people and stories I get to learn from, and then get to share them with all of you. This story in particular, has probably been one of the most emotional and inspirational I have had the honour of writing. It's all about a little village called Arthur, Ontario, and Arthur just happens to be "Canada's Most Patriotic Village".



The 150th anniversary of Canada, also known as the 150th anniversary of Confederation and promoted by the Canadian government as Canada 150, is taking place in this year, 2017. This year we celebrate, our country, our diversity, our cultures, and maybe most important of all, our freedom!

In order to tell this story, we need to take a trip back through history. I had the pleasure of meeting with two local historians; John Walsh, a WWII veteran, and Mable Hendersen, to explore the reason behind the prestigious honour, of Arthur ON, being named "Canada's Most Patriotic Village".

Nestled into 4 small rooms in the Chamber of Commerce office, lives an amazing tribute to the Village of Arthur, its' legacy, and its' wonderful history. One of the rooms, the one that overflows into the main office space, is solely dedicated to the memories of those who have served from the area in both World Wars.

Standing in the room I immediately begin to feel overwhelmed, but once John begins to share the stories, it all then becomes very real.

Here are the facts:

"The Village of Arthur received this recognition in 2002, when David Tilson, M.P.P for Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey,





stated in the Ontario Legislature that because of Arthur's extraordinary effort in World War II, the community would be recognized as "Canada's Most Patriotic Village". Achievements that garnered Arthur this title include War Bond and Victory Bond campaigns during World War II to raise money for the war effort.

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In the first campaign in 1940, Arthur Village led all communities in Canada in reaching its objective. In every following campaign (6 in all) the Village led all communities in the country in reaching its objective. As well, during the war, a Navy League was formed in most Canadian communities, to raise funds for Canadian Sailors at sea. In September, 1944, Arthur Council received an award for having raised the most per capita of any community in Ontario."

Impressive right?

More powerful still, is the knowledge, the love, and the pride that John feels for this community, and his words are certainly more knowledgeable than mine.

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John writes “Small community answered the call in a big way”, as he pens an article for “ourcanada.ca”. In his quiet manner, John takes me through the “military room”, and begins to tell stories of all the men and women whose pictures (including his own) line the walls.

You are immediately struck by the sheer number of photos in this room, and the sheer “youth” of the faces you connect with. John himself tells me that he quit high school at 18 to enlist in the war effort, as was the case for many in this quaint community. Moreover, many of those black and white photos have a red poppy attached, marking those brave souls who died in action, and its then this story strikes you right in the heart. There were so many men and women from Arthur and surrounding area who enlisted that the Toronto Daily Star profiled them in a November 2, 1942 article called “Arthur Village Gives Sons and Money to the War Effort”. The article was an interview with 4 mothers, all of whom had sons overseas, and amongst the 4 families, a total of 19

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» Arthur, Ontario - Canada's Most Patriotic Village *continued*



At that time, 126 residents had enlisted from the total population of 890. It was the highest ratio in comparison to villages of comparable sizes in Canada. By the end of the war, 338 Arthur residents had enlisted, and 25 were killed in action.

Arthur is a community steeped in pride and honour for the men and women who participated, either overseas or here at home. Beyond just the mere facts of this article, proof of that pride exists right in the middle of the beautiful downtown village. There are numerous murals, signage, and of course this wonderful building that houses all this amazing history. And at the centre of it all, the stunning and sombre cenotaph honouring this community's heroic sons and daughters.

This community, represented through the amazing knowledge and spirit of people like John and Mable, is something that all Canadians should experience. Just standing in front of all of those photos and incredible war memorabilia, or walking a few short steps to the cenotaph, you'll soon feel a sense of pride and thankfulness for what this village has sacrificed, to keep all of us free. 

Written by: Kelli Maddocks
Resource Materials:
The Town of Wellington North,
John Walsh, Mable Henderson
Wikipedia



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MAPLE and BACON POPCORN

This sweet and salty popcorn incorporates all the things you need for a last-minute Canada Day snack: red, white, bacon and maple syrup. While you're frying up the bacon, get your corn popped. Melt butter, divide in two and add red food colouring to half. In a large ziploc bag or bowl, mix half the popcorn with the red butter. Add salt, cooked bacon and drizzle with maple syrup. Sweet, salty and sticky.
<http://homeatsix.com>



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TIN CAN WINDSOCK

This craft's a cinch and will look great blowing in the wind on Canada Day!
 by Emily Piccinin

1. You will need scissors, ribbon, twine, a soup can, white paint, a paint brush, red paper, plastic jewels and a glue gun.
2. Paint the can white and cut a maple leaf from the red paper. (Find our template online.)
3. Using the glue gun, stick the maple leaf, jewels and the string handle to the can. Glue ribbons to the inside of the can's open rim.



PHOTO: TONY LANZ



CANADA DAY FRUIT KABOBS

INGREDIENTS:
 Strawberries, hulled and halved lengthwise
 Bananas, sliced about 1/2"-1" sized chunks
 Watermelon, 1 inch thick slices
 Lemon Juice

MATERIALS:
 Skewers
 Maple Leaf Cookie Cutter

DIRECTIONS:
 Cut watermelon slices with cookie cutter.

Toss Banana slices in lemon juice and shake off excess.

Skewer fruit onto the skewers in any order you like. I placed mine on to loosely resemble a Canadian flag.

Serve and enjoy!

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