

Fund-raiser for D-Day achievements surpasses expectations

By Paul Futhey
King Township Weekly

A fund-raiser to honour the contributions of a pair of King Township residents for their roles during D-Day far surpassed expectations, according to one of the event organizers.

Norm Green, a Schomberg resident, reported that a total of \$1,380 was raised to go toward the purchase of commemorative bricks for the Juno Beach Project as a way of honouring Bill Perry and the late Clarence 'Mike' Duggan.

Perry and Duggan were both among the first wave of allied attackers on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Perry, with the First Hussars of London, drove a tank on the beaches of Normandy. Duggan was a rifleman with the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto.

The bulk of the funds, \$1,250, was raised last Saturday, at a birthday party for Perry at the Schomberg IGA. That amount increased to its current figure after Monday's Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Schomberg Cenotaph.

The Juno Beach Project, a co-operative initiative of Canada and France, involves the construction of a memorial building and museum on five acres of ocean-front property by the town of Courseulles-sur-Mer. The project is to honour Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force personnel who were assigned Juno Beach as their objective on D-Day. In July, 2000, the project was provided with the land on which to build the facility. Completion of the project is slated for next year.

Continued on page 17



Juno Beach, continued

Continued from page 9

Mayor Margaret Black, presenting replica bricks to Perry and to Duggan's family at Monday's Remembrance Day ceremonies, said the community has great pride in their achievements. "The names of Bill Perry and Clarence 'Mike' Duggan will be there for future generations to see," she said.

The bricks for Perry and Duggan are to be inscribed with the individual's name, rank and regiment.

"It was pretty nice," said Perry of the event, remarking he was lucky to survive his wartime experiences.

Duggan's family expressed gratitude at the gesture. "It's wonderful," said his son Mike.

Kathy Crane, Duggan's daughter, experienced mixed emotions. "My reaction is how great this was and how sad I was that dad wasn't here," she said.

Mike agreed. "He would have loved this."

In addition, the amount of funds raised means a third brick can now be purchased. It is to be in honour of the contributions of all King Township residents to the war effort. Any remaining funds are to go toward the general building fund.