

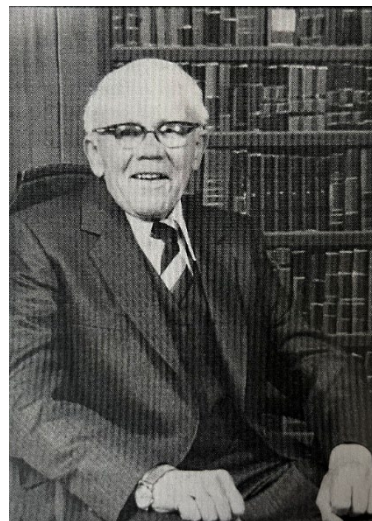


Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR OCTOBER 5, 2026 CELEBRATES FREDERIK W. KABBES

Frederik Willem Kabbes was a farmer in Harfsen, the Netherlands, who hid a Jewish family of four from Nazi occupiers from November 1944 until the liberation of Holland in April 1945.

The Krukzieners had moved around from place to place, were brought to the farm by Frederik's friend, a member of the Dutch Resistance, when his own house was no longer safe for them. The parents, Emanuel and Marianne, and the two sons, Nico and Bram (aged nine and 11), were first hidden in haystacks, then in a hole dug into a hill at the back of the farm. After a flood, the family was moved into a wooden chicken coop closer to the family home. The floor of the coop was removed, a large hole dug under the floor, and the floor replaced with boards and straw. Twice a day food would be brought to the family, and on cold winter nights after the German 8 p.m. curfew, the family would be smuggled into the house to warm up.



Although the penalty for being caught hiding Jews was usually death or being deported to a concentration camp, and the German forces conducted regular reprisals for Resistance, the Kabbes family kept the Krukzieners safe until April 6, 1945, Canadian troops liberated the area.

When the area was liberated, a Canadian officer, moved by the dramatic emergence of the Jewish family from their humble hiding place, took a photograph of the Kabbes family together with the Krukzieners. The Krukzieners wished to compensate the Kabbes family, but Frederik turned them down, saying: "You can't pay for that. It is your life."

After the war the Kabbes family immigrated to Canada and purchased a farm a few kilometres outside of Arthur, and Mr. Kabbes kept in touch with the Krukzieners.

On June 30, 1983, Yad Vashem, the world Holocaust remembrance organization recognized Frederik Willem Kabbes as a "Righteous Among the Nations", a gentile who selflessly aided Jews in need.

Mr. Kabbes died in 1989 and his great-grandson Paul now operates the farm.

Although it has been over 80 years since the end of World War II, among the heroes from Wellington North who served, we should also remember heroes like Frederik Kabbes who chose to settle in our community. He fought Nazi oppression in his own way, and his was a heroism that should not be forgotten.

Submitted by Tim McIntosh, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable.