



The Original Cat Woman and The Riddler share a kiss at the first Quinte Mini Con in Belleville this weekend at the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre. The married couple, Keri & Robby Charming, are from the Quinte area. This is the third Comic Con they've attended together.

Photo by Mandy Larade

Com Con...

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With nine years of interest in the Comic Con scene, MacBeth started his creation of Dr. Holocaust in 2008. MacBeth explained that the idea behind his character was to show the villain's side of the story. He added this desire to tell

the villain's side of the story stems from his childhood while watching cartoons, such as the Care Bears.

"How did Noheart become Noheart? There's a story there! It was always so much more interesting to me as a kid than watching the Care Bears walk around and talk about sharing," MacBeth said.

MacBeth spends his time writing, filming and producing his own episodes

of Dr. Holocaust in his own home. After failing to find an artist who could illustrate his character for an affordable price, people began to encourage him to post videos. It has since snowballed and he currently has 1,454 subscribers to his Youtube channel.

"People have been enjoying it, and I love making them," MacBeth said.

He said hopes to be able to do this kind of work full-time in the future, and

realizes that it will take time and effort.

"If I can generate enough revenue from this...that's the dream."

Other guests included artists Dan Day and Tim Snyder. Day has worked for many famous productions such as Marvel, DC, Renegade Press, Magic the Gathering, Dungeons and Dragons, and many others. Snyder's work has been seen on CBS, PBS, Playhouse Disney, Teletoon and Family Channel.



Photo by Mandy Larade

Conal MacBeth, otherwise known as "Dr. Holocaust" in the Comic Con scene, at the Quinte Mini Con with his homemade costume. MacBeth and has become well known through Youtube and at various Comic Cons in the Ontario area.



Photo by Mandy Larade

Camille Gray and Rachelle Dowin are shown in costume as Sakura & Naruto from the popular anime series "Naruto" at the Quinte Mini Con in Belleville on Saturday.

Enlistment a family tradition

By Samantha Quinn

As the nation prepared for the 95th annual Remembrance Day ceremony, celebrating the end of the First World War in 1918, Wallace Watson recalled his own days during the war.

When Watson was a young man, he decided to enlist in the Canadian Armed Forces on Oct. 16, 1943. Because his father had been a part of the fight at Vimy Ridge during the First World War, as well as a brother and sister in the Air Force, he decided to follow in his family's footsteps.



World War Two veteran Wallace Watson

After basic training at Base Borden in Barrie, Ont., Watson was shipped to England and became apart of the SD&G (Stortmont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders).

This regiment was one of the first to touch down at Juno Beach on June 6, 1944, sinking the ship outside of shore, causing many of the men on the ship to drown before reaching the battle.

At the young age of 19, Watson pushed through the waist-deep water, 100 yards from shore, with the many other young men who all had chills up their spines as they watched their own and the enemy dying in battle ahead of them.

One of the many things Watson remembers from the war is Juno Beach. Watson was one of the Canadians to be a part of D-Day. He is one of the many who survived, but not without being wounded. Watson watched as he struggled for his own life as his comrades faces quickly began disappearing into the depths of the ocean, being pulled down by the weight of their gear. Many of the men who made it onto shore were weaponless against their enemies.

At the end of the war, towns everywhere in Europe went crazy, radios filled with voices announcing the end of the war and soldiers throwing down their weapons for the last time.

At the time it was announced, Watson was out of town in the camps with his regiment, unaware of what was happening. He and an officer were in a jeep, suspecting they were lost when they arrived in Emden, a town near Dutch/German border.

They saw German soldiers everywhere, clutching their weapons in their laps, expecting a battle. Suddenly, several German soldiers ran towards the jeep, hands waving in the air, turning over their weapons, and yelling, "War over!"

Throughout all of the bad moments and the heartbreak Watson saw during the war, an unexpected twist for chaperone to a rollerskating rink changed everything for him. When Watson's brother, James Watson, was unable to make a blind date, Watson decided to go instead so the young woman wouldn't feel stood up.

Things took an unexpected twist for the best, which ended with Watson and Esther Liddle, his future wife, staying together after the war. Liddle moved to Canada a year after Watson returned from war.

Wallace Watson and Esther Liddle were together for 64 years of marriage surrounded by family in Barrie, Ont., until Liddle passed away in the fall of 2011 from Alzheimer's disease.

"My grandma and grandpa were perfect for each other. They found each other during a very tough time in the world, but managed to stay together through all of that with love," says Carrie Dixon, Watson's granddaughter.

"I love my grandfather with all of my heart. To many, he is a brave war hero, but to me, he's much more than that. He is a gentle man that put me to sleep at night as a child. He was the one that was always there. He's my own type of hero," says Dixon. This Remembrance Day, Watson attended the Army Navy Airforce Club in Barrie, Ont. for their Remembrance Day ceremony, laying a wreath for his fellow soldiers.

Plenty of scary moments for wartime navigator

Veteran took part in 30 missions with the RCAF

By Matthew Desouza

Putting yourself on the front line for war requires some serious bravery. Strapping yourself inside a plane and fighting a war from several miles up almost sounds suicidal. But Robert Graham knew exactly what he was getting himself into when he enlisted with RCAF at the age of 18.

Born in Toronto, Ont., Graham had a regular upbringing as an only child. At the age of 18, Graham signed up with the Royal Canadian Air Force to serve his country.

"Things were pretty grim for the empire in the United States. We had been defeated in Singapore, Hong Kong and North Africa. All the men were joining up at that time." Training to become an aviation navigator at Pearson airport in Toronto, Graham spent the year of 1943 earning his pilot licence and preparing for service.

"Young men coast to coast were joining up. You could train in British Columbia, Alberta, all over the country. It brought Canada together, and there was a lot of pride that we could do it, and Canada did it!"

Once training was done, Graham was

commissioned as a navigation officer, and would make his way overseas in the spring of 1944.

Flying mostly under the cover of night, pilot navigators kept busy. Every trip was full of danger.

"You could tell when things would heat up. You'd hear the guns and sometimes you'd hear the shrapnel hitting the plane."

As dangerous as the missions were, the most dangerous and daring one was soon to come.

"We were getting ready to take off when one of the engines wasn't working so well, so we had to take a spare airplane. The spare airplane had been just all rigged up with new motors and new radar. As we were flying down England, the main navigation equipment went on fire.

"We put that out, and carried on. We got to the coast of France and I knew I was on time and on target. All of a sudden the other radar set stopped dead. It ceased. We didn't have any navigation tools.

"We then got caught in a thunderstorm. It was terrible. We come out of the storm, and I wasn't quite sure where we were at all. We flew around and around and around and we didn't see anything."

As if the situation wasn't bad enough, things soon got worse.

"Then the Germans started dropping fighter flares. The flares would try and



Photo by Matthew Desouza

World War Two veteran Robert Graham enlisted with the RCAF at the age of 18 and was commissioned as a navigation officer.

catch the planes in the silhouette. At this time, the pilot said we should return home asking, 'Can you give me a course for home?'

"I can't give you a course for home, I don't know where we are to start with."

"Flying west towards the coast, we were still lost. We kept going and would duck into the clouds any time a fighter

flare would come down. Finally we come across a coastline, and I send out an SOS. They send back a fix on the location and I couldn't believe it. We were on the German side of the Zuider Zee. We had been flying around northern Germany all by ourselves!"

Making it out unscathed, Graham finished his tour in April 1945. Having com-

pleted 30 missions with the RCAF, it was time to head back home to Toronto. Getting geared up and ready to head over to Japan, the war then ended.

A quiet life would resume for Graham, where he was to remarry his public school girlfriend and became the father of two children.

In 1960, the move was made from Toronto to Belleville where he would work for Bell as an engineering manager for the next 42 years. A very dangerous form of skin cancer would soon have Graham down, but not out. After some very rough treatment, the cancer was finally beaten.

Retirement from Bell would mean a quiet easy life for Graham and his wife in Belleville. Moving into the Quinte Gardens home, a retirement residence, Graham is now serving as president of the residents' council.

Spending as much time he came with family and friends, he is also an active member of the Rotary Club.

With the RCAF association, Graham keeps in touch with other active members of the Royal Canadian Air Force and enjoys getting together and having a good time at meetings and at legion gatherings.

For this 89-year-old vet, life has been full of excitement and accomplishment. From his days serving for his country, to his now quiet life, it's fair to say Graham has been around the block. Or rather the world.