

Local cadets look to NHL alumni to help fund trip of a lifetime



By Jake Courtepatte

Some of your favourite ex-NHLers will be skating into the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket this Saturday, and you can help support a great Aurora cause by being there.

The "NHL Alumni Tour", a series of games across Canada presented by Scotiabank and offering tons of skill and nostalgia, makes it's Newmarket stop to face the Newmarket Law Enforcement All Stars. Speaking of nostalgia, the lineup is chock full of names drawn from the Toronto Maple Leafs history book, including Rick Vaive, Al Iafrate, and Tom Fergus.

The Queen's York Rangers Cadets are looking to get in on the action, and to fund a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Vimy Ridge, France.

Purchasing tickets to the NHL Alumni game through the cadets sends 50 percent of the profits towards the ten-day excursion, set for the spring of 2017 when cadets will travel to France, Belgium, and Holland to open their eyes to our military history.

"It's a tremendous opportunity," said the Rangers' commanding officer, Captain Phil Lusk. "The CEF (Canadian Expeditionary Forces) played a major role in the Allies' victory in the First World War, and these cadets will get to see where it all happened."

Forty cadets, as well as eight supervising staff, are booked for the trip. Flying into Paris, the group will tour the City of Lights on the first day, before heading to the coast of Normandy and Juno Beach, where Canadian troops stormed the beach on "D-Day" in 1944.

"The history behind a place like that is just outstanding," said Lusk.

Learning about different cultures, architecture, food, and language over ten days can get expensive: hence, the marriage of fundraising and sport.

"It's a fun, cheap, easy night out," said Lusk. "Fundraising through hockey can get anybody involved."

Tickets purchased through the cadets are discounted to \$15, while buying through the tour's website runs for \$22.

To buy tickets through the cadets, you can email 2799army@cadets.gc.ca, or call 905-726-8600. Private or corporate tax receipt donations are welcome for the Vimy Ridge trip as well, with more information found at www.vimybound.ca.