

## We shouldn't glorify war with Cenotaph tank

Last night I woke up with the dread of an armoured vehicle in Aurora's Peace Park.

I have not had nightmares since the mid-seventies, when my regular nightmares about war stopped.

While I grew up in a village, towards the end of the Second World War, as a four year old, I lived with my grandmother, my Oma, in my birth city in Germany, in Bremen, because of a middle ear operation that could only be performed there.

I was in Bremen for four months while bombing was a regular occurrence. We were in and out of the apartment building's basement and the neighbourhood bunker, depending on the severity of the bombing and the frequency of the siren.

The windows were always darkened at night.

There was a constant threat that my Oma's building would be next.

My nightmares were related to the war experiences in that big city.

When Germany was re-militarized, I left Germany, to Canada where military service was not mandatory.

Now our Council has decided to place the ultimate glorification of war into our Peace Park - an armoured war vehicle.

During the last year I walked by that park a few times, feeling good about that oasis of nature, right along Yonge Street. But now, if that war vehicle is installed I shall be avoiding such walks and shall use Allaura Blvd to get to meetings at McDonalds.

I don't think I am the only citizen of Aurora who has come from a war torn country.

What our Mayor and Councillors don't appear to realize is the extent to which a person's mind is affected by the war's violence. I don't think any Council Member is old enough to have had such experience.

I certainly am not looking forward to being reminded of war by seeing an armoured war vehicle right here in Aurora.

Is it meant to glorify the successes of egomaniacs?

While I am hopeful that nightmares will not restart, I did not like waking up to thoughts that involve the military and wars.

There must be a way to reverse that decision.

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