

MACEDONIAN NATIONAL DAY: ILINDEN



GOCE DELCEV

The Macedonian revolutionary leader who declared: “We are sons of the same enslaved land.” The one goal and the one wish that unites us is the hope for liberation of Macedonia. Macedonia is ours. It is here that our grandfathers, fathers and we were born. For us, there is no country in the whole world that is more beautiful than our Macedonia and we should not ever stop striving for the precious ideal of freedom for all Macedonians.



ALEXANDER THE GREAT

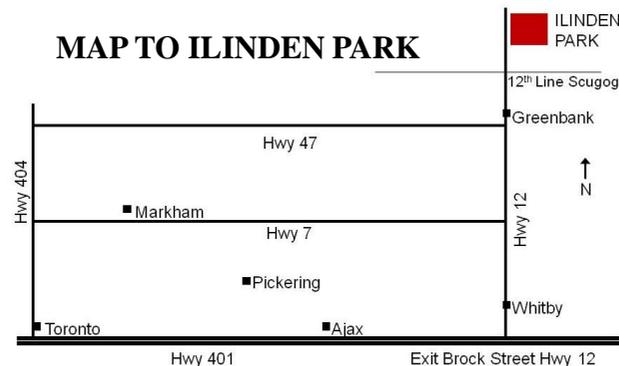
King of Macedonia and one of the greatest generals in history who conquered much of the civilized world. The Macedonians spoke their own native language, and the native language of Alexander the Great was not understood by the ancient Greeks (Quintus Curtius Rufus, VI, 9, 37). Similarly, Plutarch points out that Alexander spoke to his fellow countrymen in Macedonian: “He [Alexander] called out aloud to his guests in the Macedonian language....” {Plutarch, Alexander, 51}.



THE MEANING OF ILINDEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

On August 1 and 2, 2015, we are celebrating the most important Macedonian national day, Ilinden. We honour the sons and daughters who gave their lives for Macedonia’s freedom. On August 2, 1903, on St. Ilija’s Day, Ilinden, the signal was given that commenced the Macedonian Uprising for freedom against the Ottoman Empire. With the Macedonian cry of “Liberty or Death” embroidered on their banner, Macedonians answered the call in the Macedonian regions of Solun, Skopje and Bitola. Macedonian freedom fighters liberated many towns and villages, including the important town of Krushevo where they proclaimed an independent republic. The Ottoman Empire was shaken. An Ottoman army of 350,000 was deployed to brutally suppress the Uprising. Thousands of Macedonian men, women and children were killed and hundreds of villages and towns were destroyed. However, they could not destroy the Macedonian nation.

MAP TO ILINDEN PARK



ORIGIN

The red shaded area represents where Macedonians attending the Ilinden Picnic originated from. Macedonia is a land with an ancient name and long history of enriching western civilization. The so-called “name dispute” was imposed on Macedonians by Greece. It is nothing more than an attempt to appropriate the Macedonian identity and to eliminate an entire people with ancient roots. The Macedonian name and identity cannot be appropriated. The Macedonian people and their identity, language, history, culture and traditions with continue to exist and thrive.

ILINDEN MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Saturday August 1, 2015 at St. Clement of Ohrid Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral.

10:00am: Memorial Service for the fallen heroes of Ilinden.

11:30am: Wreath laying ceremony at the monument.

57th ANNUAL ILINDEN PICNIC
On Sunday August 2, 2015 at Ilinden Park.
Gates open at 7:00am.

All are welcome.



57th Annual Ilinden Picnic: Sunday August 2nd | Ilinden Park, 21351 Hwy 12, Scugog, ON
The U.M. invites all Macedonians and friends.