



## War camp

Many German Prisoners of War were stationed in Monteith during the Second World War from 1939 to 1945. The prisoners lived in small quarters at the edge of what is now the Monteith Correctional Centre. The property was cut off from the rest of the village by a large, thick wire fence. This picture of the POW camp was taken during the 1940s.

# Monteith history reviewed

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Monteith. They came up to Monteith to see the old camp. They went to the post office and the lady from the post office phoned me to ask if they could come and see me. I said sure send them right over. They were very nice. He said that he had been treated really well when he was here. But he was disappointed that all the huts where the prisoners had stayed, had disappeared. He wanted to know why they had all been torn down," Hoffman said.

In 1945, the P.O.W. camp became an industrial farm for sentenced Ontario prisoners. Under the supervision of Irvine White, the prisoners grew many different types of fruits and vegetables including current trees. They also maintained beautiful vegetable and flower gardens which attracted people from miles away. At the time, Hoffman's husband worked as a guard in the camp in the public works department. During the time, the farm provided a great deal of employment for the local residents. The farm also offered short and long-term classes to the prisoners on such subjects as agriculture and general

living skills. Eventually, the name of the institution was changed to a Correctional Centre and a district jail was added in 1965. A Young Offender's Unit was added to the institution in 1985, after the Young Offender's Act was passed by the Ontario government in 1984.

The Ministry of Correctional Services presently operates a 176 bed unit combining a correctional centre, jail and young offender's unit. The Correctional Centre is a 120 bed unit, with minimum security for adults who are serving sentences of not more than two years less one day. The jail is a maximum security unit with 26 beds. The Monteith Correctional Centre is the second largest single employer, next to Abitibi-Price. The centre employs 142 people, 100 of which are full-time positions. Some of these positions include correctional officers, nurses, social workers, psychologists, trade instructors, maintenance and farming staff as well as administrative and clerical staff. The farm still plays an important role at the Correctional Centre. The Correctional Centre produces its own pork, beef, potatoes and vegetables.

The work is done by the farm staff and the inmates.

Throughout all these changes, Hoffman has remained in the village of Monteith. She moved once when she married her husband, Art in 1932. She has been an active member of the Anglican Church and the Monteith Women's Institute for many years. Her sister, Lilian Taylor lives in Iroquois Falls.