



Sgt. William Cutmore



Ken Cutmore of Oakville poses beside the 'weasel,' a vehicle used by the First Special Service Force. His uncle, Sgt. William Cutmore, a member of that unit, died in WWII.

# Remembering Sgt. William Cutmore

## Oakville soldier fought with 'Black Devil's Brigade'

By Wilma Blokhuis  
BEAVER FOCUS EDITOR

Military buff Ken Cutmore has suitcases and suitcases full of old war records and photographs.

Almost all of his vast collection is exclusively of his late uncle's military service, and his Ward War II top-secret First Special Service Force (FSSF) commando unit nicknamed the 'Black Devil's Brigade.'

The unit was formed in Helena, Montana, in July 1942 and was trained

to be an amphibious-parachute-ski-commando force. It was known for its fierce fighting tactics and night time raids – members disguised themselves by blackening their faces.

The brigade got its nickname in 1944 from a captured German officer in Anzio, Italy, who muttered "the black devils are all around us." It was North America's toughest fighting force, and was the first dual-nation combat unit on side with the Allies. Its mission was always kept top-secret.

The unit inspired the 1968 Hollywood movie *Devil's Brigade*.

Sgt. William Charles Cutmore was killed in action in southern France on Sept. 16, 1944, at age 26.

"He fought on the front lines. . . and was killed at 2 p.m., on the day the French Riviera near Menton was liberated." He was killed in Fort Castillon, north of Menton and northeast of Nice.

"The fort surrendered after my uncle was killed. By December 1944, their mission was accomplished." He is buried in Marseilles, France.

"War is hell and my uncle was a victim of it."

Cutmore, of Oakville, retraced some of his uncle's final steps, hiking the area near Fort Castillon, when he and his wife Jackie visited France a year ago this month. "I was looking for the battlefield where he was killed."

While there, the Cutmores also visited the Mazarques Cemetery at Marseilles where 434 members of the FSSF, nine RCAF soldiers and one Canadian merchant seaman are buried.

On Remembrance Day, Cutmore placed small Canadian flags on each of the Canadian graves, and presented a large flag to the Royal British Legion which maintains the cemetery.

He also placed a wreath on behalf of the FSSF and the Cutmore family, and Jackie placed one on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 114 Oakville.

(See 'Highway . . .' page B3)

# Major sponsors a big help

By Bill Roebuck

The Major Sponsors of the Oakville Rotary Auction are a special group. It's an impressive list of companies, including Tim Hortons, Computer Network Services, Prudential Town Realty, Lockwood Chrysler, Novartis, The Oakville Beaver and Cogeco Community Television – as well as many other important supporters. The following backgrounds will familiarize you with some of them – others were described in last week's column.

If you want to see one of the best sport utility vehicles made today, look no further than the lot at **Lockwood Chrysler** on Wyecroft Rd. in Oakville. There you'll find the new Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo. And you can place your bid to drive one in this year's Auction – J. Lockwood Leasing has donated a six-month, 12,000 km lease! The dealership carries the full line of Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep products, and its fully independent leasing arm has the unique ability to lease any type of vehicle, whether it be domestic or import, something the company has been doing for over 10 years. Lockwood Chrysler is a long-term supporter of many Rotary activities in our community.

**Novartis Consumer Health Canada Inc.** may not be a household name to everyone, but its cough, cold and allergy products certainly are. We're all familiar with Neo Citran, the hot liquid cold and flu medication that helps you feel like yourself again. For families with children, Triaminic offers the smart choice of cough syrups. Otrivin nasal spray helps you breathe easy, fast, when you're suffering from colds or allergies. You're likely to have some Novartis brands in your cupboard, especially during the coming cold season. Novartis is the world's leading life sciences company and its name means "new skills," which reflects on its commitment to innovation and development. And we can add community involvement to that list as well.

The **Oakville Beaver** is Oakville's community information provider. With roots dating back to the 1800's, The Beaver is as much a part of the town as the harbours and the Canadian geese. Committed to providing local community news, the newspaper publishes three times a week and is the primary source for local business and services to promote themselves. The Oakville Beaver is proud to have donated over \$200,000 in cash and in-kind advertising for 1999 to support local community groups. The Beaver is pleased to once again be a part of the Oakville Rotary Auction and to be a partner with this very worthwhile event.

**Cogeco**, your local cable and community television organization, is a diversified communications company with over 40 years of experience in cable and broadcasting. It is the second largest cable operator in Ontario, serving over 580,000 customers across the Province. The company strives to meet the communication needs of consumers and advertisers through cable distribution, broadcasting, Pay TV and Internet services. Its mission statement states: "In the changing and competitive world of communications, Cogeco aims to provide each of its customers with the widest possible choice of individual solutions at the most affordable price." Cogeco is actively involved in creating local programming, including the upcoming Oakville Rotary Auction.

We'd also like to note our appreciation of several other sponsors of the Auction, including the TD Bank (which has several personal and business banking branches throughout the region), A-1 Air Conditioning & Heating (providing sales and service to homes and businesses since 1967), Carolwood Corporation (supplier of Lignisul MSM nutritional supplements), and Compass Flooring Ltd. of Mississauga (a commercial and industrial distributor of floor, wall and ceiling solutions).

Bill Roebuck is a member of the Rotary Club of Oakville-Trafalgar, one of three clubs – with the Oakville North and Oakville West clubs – organizing the 1999 Oakville Rotary Auction.

**Support your community. Tune into Cogeco TV 23 November 19th & 20th for the Rotary Auction.**

## OAKVILLE ROTARY AUCTION

November 19th, 20th

### Wanderers

View the collections of:

- Erica Rossler
- Gabig (Italian Knits)
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2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.  
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2441 Lakeshore Rd. W.  
(Corner of Lakeshore & Bronte Rd.)  
825-0719

### KIDS EAT FREE!

### WINTER MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS!

Bring the Kids on Monday Nights after 5pm and they eat FREE!

Kids must be accompanied by an adult with a minimum \$5.00 purchase before taxes

Offer available at

Bronte location only.

One Kiddie Meal per \$5.00 purchase.

Offer available for kids 12 years & under.

Offer valid from: November - March Break

2420 LAKESHORE RD. W.  
825-0949

### Charities invited to be part of Spirit of Giving

Once again, St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School is preparing for its annual Spirit of Giving Christmas Festival on Saturday, Nov. 27th, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the school, 1080 Linbrook R.d.

Last year's event was a huge success. Many non-profit and charity groups that participated in the Christmas Festival found it to be beneficial. St. Mildred's-Lightbourn Parents and Friends Association contributed \$2,000 to participating non-profit agencies.

This year's format will also include charity and non-profit groups selling their products. There will also be 'Buy a Bow,' Bake Sale, Kris Kringle Shop, face painting, and other activities.

New this year will be the Children's Wish Foundation – Wishing Well. Bring foreign currency (coin), and make a wish as they toss it into the well. The proceeds will be given entirely to the Children's Wish Foundation.

Organizations interested in joining the Spirit of Giving Festival, contact Jennifer Fronk at 844-9940 or Tracy Bowie at 339-1025.

- Sponsored by:
- Coach & Four
  - Bronte Chinese Restaurant
  - Oakville Sea Oats
  - Oakville Fire Fighters Association
  - Halton Regional Police Services
  - Chaps Restaurant Bronte
  - Edi Realty Negotiators
  - Bronte Harbour Yacht Club
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For more information  
call the Bronte Village BIA  
(905) 825-3258  
www.brontevillage.net

## Bronte's Second Annual BOAT RACE Christmas Charity Challenge

Saturday, November 13, '99, 12pm - 5:30pm



Great Fun for the Whole Family!  
FREE FOOD, DRINK & CANDIES

Charity Challenge Boat Race 1:30pm  
Starts at East St. and proceeds along Lakeshore to Bronte Rd.

Be sure to vote for the best decorated boat.

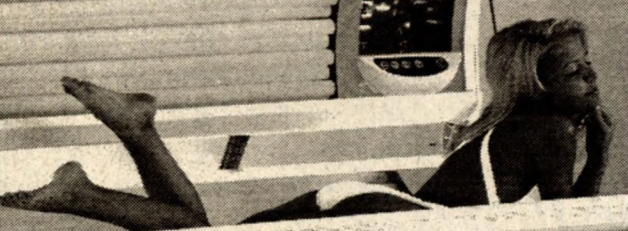
Last year's winner: The Oakville Firefighters Association

- **Elves Toy Trunk:** Please bring your New & Recycled toys for Santa's Kids as well as non-perishable food items to support the Oakville Food Bank & Salvation Army. Please bring winter coats to Diversified Financial Services.
- **Santa's Mailbox & Photo Booth**
- **Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides**
- **Children's Colouring Contest**
- **Face Painting**
- **Tree Lighting Ceremony 5:30pm at Etcetera, etc.**
- **Demonstrations**

Colouring Contest at Exit 12-5pm  
2274 Lakeshore Road West, Bronte

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