

HALTON HILLS ARTS COUNCIL

Bull moose dexterities

Summer is slowly winding down. Soon the children will be back in school and life will return to a more structured existence. Summer is a lazy time. A time for beaches and bar-b-ques, picnics and parties. Fall, on the other hand, is a time for organizing and preparing for the activities that will help us make it through the long, cold winter to come.

In the fall we set our work goals, we join community groups. Speaking of community groups: Why not consider joining the "Arts Council".



New members are always welcome. As a member you will receive our "Calendar of the Arts" an invaluable guide to the activities of local artists, craftsmen, musical and dramatic groups.

If you are interested in joining, you may pick up a membership form from the Arts Council Display in the Georgetown Library or write to Halton Hills Arts Council, P.O. Box 7, Georgetown L7G 4T1.

The Arts Council is not an elitist group made up of people, who are too, too cultured to mix with the hoi poloi. It is made up of your neighbors and friends.

It is made up of people, who are creative in many different craft areas as well as those, who have the manual dexterity of a bull moose. There are no prerequisites of talent required. All you need is an interest in the cultural life of your community.

CONTINUING:

Until Sept. 7 at the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre "Ichthyosaurs: Sea Dragons of the Mesozoic". An Exhibition circulated by the Extension Services Department of the Royal Ontario Museum.

COMING EVENTS:

August 31 "Summer Finale Special" Acton and Georgetown Libraries at 2 p.m. A grand wind up to the many summer activities sponsored by the Libraries. Call your library for information.



This book is 'Fit to eat'

Ann Budge of Terra Cotta tries out one of the more than 100 recipes in her new cook book, 'Fit to Eat'. Two thousand copies of the book, a collection of wholesome and nutritious meals, are on local bookshelves now. The proceeds from the sales will go to the Canadian national orienteering team. (Herald photo)

Simon Fraser

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First taste of war:

Ormie Carter spends time with famed Devil's Brigade before his capture

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Ormie Carter, a Norval resident for most of his life, is philosophical about the several months he spent in a German prisoner of war (POW) camp towards the end of the last World War.

"You tend to remember the good times," he told The Herald last week. "You did alright if you did as you were told, but it was quite an experience -- really something."

Mr. Carter and his brother-in-law, Gord Browne, another Norval resident, spent time in the same POW camp, although they came there by different means.

A 59-year old packer at Georgetown's Abitibi-Price, Mr. Carter is looking forward to his retirement; he was getting his first taste of war as a soldier.

As a new recruit in the Canadian Army, Mr. Carter spent his first year travelling across the country. Finally, he was old enough, at 19, to see active duty and was shipped over to Aldershot, England.

SPECIAL FORCES
From there, he went to a Canadian forces base in Abellino, Italy. "All the reinforcements went to Abellino," Mr. Carter said. "But I wasn't there for very long. I volunteered to join the First Special Service Force and went to Anzio with them."

The Force's notoriety reached deep behind enemy lines. They were called the Devil's Brigade, established as a special commando brigade by US president Franklin D. Roosevelt and British prime minister Winston Churchill.

The cheers from a liberated Rome June 4, 1944 fell on the Brigade's ears first.

From Italy, Mr. Carter and his comrades headed on to southern France. They landed on a couple of off-shore islands and then moved on to the mainland, pushing through the French Riviera.

ARTILLERY
At one point, German artillery was shelling the town of Menton. Mr. Carter and a squad of men were climbing a mountain to get a better vantage point from which to spot the enemy artillery for waiting Allied ships off-shore in the Mediterranean.

"It was Sept. 9, 1944. The Germans, Mr. Carter said, must have seen the advance coming from below and opened fire, mortally wounding one of the nine men from Mr. Carter's platoon section.

"That left eight of us -- four Americans and

Next week: The Herald interviews Gord Browne

four Canadians who were captured," he said. "Two radio men further down the hill were not."

Now POWs, the men were taken to divisional headquarters where they were interrogated before being shipped to Mantova, Italy.

At the base of the Brenner Pass through the Italian Alps, Mantova was a kind of clearing house for POWs captured in the nearby theatre of war.

When the Germans were ready to take the POWs, they were crammed into box cars for a four-day rail trip to Moseburg in southern Germany, the location

able time just waiting and waiting," he said. "It's an experience you never forget."

On arriving, men were de-loused -- splashed with a paint brush loaded with turpentine. They lived in huts and they scrounged for every tidbit they could find or pick up the efficient camp currency, cigarettes.

Cigaretts came in Red Cross packages made up by thousands of faceless and unknown volunteers around the world.

"You bought everything with cigarettes," Mr. Carter said. "One time, Gordie and I hit it big with 1,000 cigarettes.

make camp life even remotely comfortable. On every trip out as a work detail for clean up chores in Munich or to work nearby farms, the men would try to bring something back, like extra wood or potatoes.

"We were great scroungers," Mr. Carter laughed.

Running water was limited to a cold water tap for each hut.

"The tea was so bad, you couldn't drink it," he said. "But at least you could shave in it."

Breakfast and lunch meals were occasional, at best. Supper usually consisted of a potato and rotten sauerkraut and sometimes soup made with horsemeat.

"You could live on it," Mr. Carter commented, "but it wasn't too good."

Despite tactics like a reveille with Alsatian



An employee of Abitibi-Price in Georgetown, Ormie Carter spent time as a teenager with a special commando brigade called the "Devil's Brigade", before being captured by the Germans in World War II.

loved he was being well treated by the Allies.

He was inclined, Mr. Carter explained, to ease up on his Canadian prisoners something which Mr. Carter fears may have been his downfall: Capt. Mulheim was shot by the SS because he was too lenient just before the Stalag 7A was liberated by General Patton's troops.

In the darkness of captivity, there were some bright moments. Mr. Carter remembers nights and musical plays put on by the prisoners, usually before a full house with the front row seats occupied by German officers.

There was an outstanding camp band,

thanks to several talented Americans and instruments which came in Red Cross packages.

Eventually, Red Cross packages gained Mr. Carter and several other Canadians, includ-

ing Mr. Browne, a little freedom.

They were essentially on their honor not to escape. The POWs drove convoys of trucks picking up packages from the Swiss border and delivering them to POW and concentration camps.

Mr. Carter made two trips -- one to the infamous concentration camp, Dachau, arriving the day before it was liberated.

By July, 1945, Mr. Carter was back in Toronto. About a year later he began what has stretched to 37-year career with Abitibi-Price in Georgetown. "Yes, indeed," he said. "It was quite an experience."

PLAY IT SAFE!

Never take trouble in the water. Remember the story about the boy who cried "wolf" once too often?



Ormie Carter's only contact with the outside world during his stay in Germany as a POW was a monthly postcard.

of Stalag 7A. "There were fifty men to a box car," Mr. Carter said "and we weren't given much food or water. There was no room to lie down and only a little wire window from which to look out."

Mr. Carter arrived at Stalag 7A on Oct. 1, slightly less than a month after his capture.

His brother-in-law was already there. "Gordie and two of his friends took me under their wing and looked after me," Mr. Carter said. "I was the cooker."

We used a little cooker made out of tin cans with a blower at one end and a crank at the other which forced the flames to where the potatoes were in a pot.

While he doesn't know how many prisoners were at Stalag 7A, Mr. Carter recalls it as being an enormous community of POWs of numerous nationalities: French, Polish, Russian and Slavic and East Indian, as well as Canadian, American and British troops.

CAMP HARDSHIP

"There was the terr-

dogs snapping at your heels, Mr. Carter doesn't hold much animosity for his German captors.

"They didn't have much more than we had and we'd trade with them as well."

SYMPATHY
Camp Commandant Capt. Mulheim was a "very good army officer," Mr. Carter said. Apparently, he had a brother interned in a POW camp in Lethbridge, Alberta and bel-

Repackaged into smaller containers, the salt was as good as gold.

SCROUNGERS

There was little to

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